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AN
ESSAY
ON THE
VENEREAL DISEASE
AND ITS
TREATMENT,
ILLUSTRATED BY NUMEROUS CASES;
INTENDED TO ASCERTAIN THE EFFECTS OF
NITROUS ACID
AND OTHER ANALOGOUS REMEDIES,
LATELY PROPOSED AS SUBSTITUTES FOR MERCURY.

By WILLIAM BLAIR, A. M.

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THIRD EDITION, MUCH IMPROVED AND ENLARGED.

" To attack an error is the common right of all men; in medicine, it is a duty: and he who has devoted himself to the preservation of citizens, ought not to fear opposing those prejudices of which he knows the dangers; especially, when he can substitute a useful truth in their place."

J. S. Mittig.

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PREFACE

TO THE

SECOND EDITION.

February 1799.

WHILE every branch of medicine continues in a state of progression, it cannot be deemed presumptuous to suppose there is still room to improve the treatment of Venereal Affections. The remark of SENECA on another occasion is equally applicable on the present: “ Multum egerunt qui ante nos fuerunt, sed non peregerunt: multum adhuc restat operis, multumque restabit; neque ulli nato post mille secula, unquam precidetur occasio boni aliquid adjiciendi.”

My situation, as Surgeon of an establishment exclusively* appropriated to the cure of the Lues Venerea, affords

* At an average, about five hundred and twenty patients have been annually relieved at the LOCK HOSPITAL, since its first institution in 1746; the greater part of whom were admitted in the most wretched state of disease and misery, without resource and without hope. There are ninety-six beds, for the accommodation of persons of both sexes. Beside which, an institution, supported by a separate contribution, was established in the year 1787, under the name of the LOCK ASYLUM, for the reception of penitent females cured in the hospital; where they are clothed, maintained, employed, and instructed, till they can be restored to their friends, or to the community, in a way of honest industry. On every account, the Lock Hospital,

affords me daily opportunities of treating a greater variety of cases than falls to the lot of practitioners in general : I therefore thought it my duty to institute a fair and extensive trial of the new antivenereal remedies, in every stage of this disease, and to lay the result of my observations before the public.

I had been for some time preparing to illustrate the origin, progress, and natural history of Syphilis, and indeed had made considerable advances in my inquiry, when Mr. SCOTT's report on the nitric acid was introduced to the medical world. The general attention it excited, and its great importance as a practical question, induced me to bring forward the subject prior to that which I had planned.

Nearly eight months have elapsed, since the former edition of these cases was published. I then expected to have been able, in a short time, to complete another collection, tending to elucidate the same object of inquiry. But unforeseen delays having prevented the accomplishment of my wishes, it now becomes necessary for me to request the indulgence of those gentlemen who have honoured me with communications. Very soon, however, I hope to receive the remaining cases promised by my correspondents, which will enable me to bring the *Second Part* of this Essay to a conclusion.

The uncommon success of several surgeons, in their late experience with the acid (especially at the Woolwich Hospital) has induced me to select a few more well-marked examples of Lues Venerea, for the purpose of repeating my observations, and of discovering any error or defect there

Hospital and Asylum are entitled to the liberal assistance of the public; but especially, as they are conducted upon such principles as must operate powerfully against the progress of vice, and as an encouragement to virtuous habits.

might possibly have been in my practice last year. But no alteration whatever has taken place in my opinion, in consequence of these renewed trials. I therefore still conclude, that the advocates for the acid are greatly deceiving themselves, and that too little discrimination has been used in ascertaining the *real* merits of Mr. SCOTT's plan. As a general substitute for mercury in the treatment of Syphilis, it is certainly inadmissible. Its efficacy may be most depended on, in cases where a venereal taint is least capable of proof.

Although we are in possession of abundant evidence to establish the occasional utility of the oxygenated remedies, it does not yet appear, from the facts brought forward, that their *antivenereal* power is likely to be demonstrated. If every medicine which has been found beneficial in the ambiguous forms of Lues Venerea, were to be dignified with the appellation of "an antidote or a specific" against that disease, the class of antivenereals (*i. e.* medicines which destroy the syphilitic virus) would be augmented *ad infinitum*. In this sense of the term, which is too loose to be admitted, antivenereal remedies may be found in the animal, the vegetable, and the mineral kingdom; alkalies as well as acids, might be called antivenereals; and the greatest possible confusion would arise, in our pathological reasoning. But, the leading question is not whether the number of antisyphilitic remedies shall be multiplied by the introduction of the acids, &c. which may be regarded as a matter of inferior consideration. The main point, I apprehend, is to determine WHETHER OR NOT MERCURY DESERVES TO BE BANISHED, AND THE NEW PLAN OF TREATMENT ADOPTED IN ITS STEAD?

This, surely, is the grand practical question at issue, the question originally agitated by Mr. SCOTT, and still remaining

maining *sub judice*. How far the following statement of facts will go toward determining this point, must be left to the reader's judgment. It will be found that (in my own practice) of twenty-four cases, with primary symptoms of the Lues Venerea, *only two* were successfully treated; and of thirty-seven cases, with secondary symptoms, *not one* could be cured with the new remedies! My subsequent experience, together with that of various other practitioners, containing the result of several hundred more trials, will be speedily laid before the public.

ADVERTISEMENT TO THE THIRD EDITION.

The first and second editions of this work having been entitled “ESSAYS on the Venereal Disease, &c.” the Author acquaints his readers that the alteration now made in the title arises from a determination to relinquish the original design of publishing a further series.

The translation of Girtanner’s Treatise on this disease will be ready for sale during the present winter, as the greater part of it is already printed: one cause of the Editor’s delay in completing it, has been the re-translating of that treatise from a new and improved edition, after the former translation had been finished.

PREFACE

TO THE
THIRD EDITION.

October 16, 1807.

EXACTLY ten years ago, I announced my intention, by a circular letter, of publishing some “**ANIMADVERSIONS UPON THE REPORTS OF DR. BEDDOES, DR. ROLLO, MR. CRUICKSHANK, &c. CONCERNING THE ANTI-VENEREAL EFFECTS OF NITROUS ACID AND OTHER ANALOGOUS SUBSTANCES.**” The motto which I then prefixed to my letter was as follows :

“ Attaquer une Erreur est le Droit commun à tous les Hommes ; en Médecine c'est un Devoir : et celui qui s'est consacré à la Conservation des Citoyens, ne doit pas craindre, de s'élever contre les Préjugés dont il connaît les Dangers ; sur-tout, quand il peut leur substituer une Vérité utile.” *Preface des Observ. Sommaires, &c. de la Salivation, par J. S. Mittié.*

The letter itself was couched in these terms :

“ TO MEDICAL GENTLEMEN.

“ Several respectable Physicians and Surgeons have positively affirmed, that nitrous acid and other substances of analogous constitution are a certain and speedy remedy against the *Lues Venerea*. To establish this point, many instances of cures in the *early stage* of that disease have been attested. But as the success of experiments made in recent and doubtful cases, which might perhaps have terminated happily by other means, and without the administration of mercury, are unsuitable proofs of the efficacy of a supposed *antivenereal* remedy, it has been judged fit to invite practitioners to make trial of these medicines in more inveterate cases ; where well-marked *blotches, nodes, ulcerated sauces, and other characteristic symptoms of a*

genuine *Syphilis* appear: those patients who have not used mercury, or who may have employed it long ago, and had a relapse of their complaints, are the most unexceptionable for this purpose. We have been informed that ‘above an hundred bad cases stand attested as cured beyond all reasonable doubt’; but, on impartially examining the evidence brought forward respecting them, there is ground to conclude, that this declaration has not been verified by legitimate examples.

“The hopes of experimenters are sanguine; the public mind continues in suspense; the matter in question is of very great importance, and cannot soon be decided by the observations of an individual. For these reasons, it is presumed, no umbrage will be given by this mode of soliciting gentlemen to employ the new medicines, *in unequivocal cases of confirmed Syphilis*; and, if they do not wish to conceal the result of their experience from the world, to send such reports as they may please to communicate, either to the Editor of this Letter, at his own house; or (directed for him) to Mr. CALLOW, Bookseller, Crown Court, Wind-mill Street, near Golden Square; or to Mr. Cox, Bookseller, in St. Thomas’s Street, Borough.”

I have here reprinted the circular paper, in order to afford my readers an opportunity of remarking the grounds on which I judged the then existing facts to be insufficient to establish the credit of the nitrous acid, viz. because the cases adduced in its support were not those of well-marked blotches, nodes, ulcerated sores, and other characteristic marks of a genuine *Syphilis*, but only cases of the early stage of that disease. Why then should a Physician in the west of England express his surprise, that “On the 16th of October 1797, I issued a paper, plainly condemning the new practice, notwithstanding my own experience was then very slight?” Suppose my opinion had been wholly formed on the report of other persons’ experience, and that I had myself made no trials whatever with the nitrous acid; still I might fairly have condemned the deductions, which appeared to be so weakly founded, by practitioners who only recited successful *primary cases*. It must be perfectly obvious to the most superficial observer of my circular paper, that the great point which I had in view, and urged as indispensably necessary to clear up all doubts respecting the

proposed plan, was “to employ the new medicines in unequivocal cases of confirmed Syphilis.” And any other successful trials than “with inveterate cases,” were distinctly declared to be, in my judgment, ILLEGITIMATE proofs.

The object which I had in view, and the sentiments I entertained, when the above letter was first circulated, may be inferred from the following extract of a communication inserted by me, Jan. 1798, in the Monthly Magazine :

“ It is well known that many medical men have been lately engaged in making experiments to ascertain whether or not the venereal disease, in all its complicated forms, can be radically cured by medicines containing a large proportion of oxygen, or vital air; and particularly by means of the nitrous acid and oxygenated muriate of potash.

“ The very respectable testimonies which have already appeared in favour of these remedies, and the mild as well as expeditious manner in which they are said to operate, have induced me to give them a fair and unprejudiced trial, in a great variety of cases; and also to solicit the communications of other gentlemen in London, who have had opportunities of exhibiting them: but I am sorry to observe, that our experience obliges me to differ in opinion from those physicians and surgeons who have raised our expectations on this subject.

“ This diversity of opinion being founded on actual observation, and not any preconceived notions, has emboldened me to use the freedom of circulating a printed letter, to recommend the trial of the new medicines in advanced stages of the disease; where well-marked blotches, nodes, ulcerated sores, ozena, and other characteristic symptoms of a genuine Syphilis appear: since in these cases only can we be fully assured that the syphilitic poison exists in the constitution, and indubitably requires the administration of an anti-venereal medicine.

“ The most judicious practitioners, and those of the largest experience, are ready to confess, that although it be usually advisable to give mercury in recent stages of the venereal disease, with a view to prevent the further progress of the symptoms, or the occurrence of a confirmed Lues Venerea; yet in very many such instances, the patients would escape and recover their health, by a proper plan of treatment, without the use of mercury; and, notwithstanding

standing this fact may be denied by some speculative persons, it is too well authenticated for us to rest the proof of an antivenereal remedy *solely* or *even chiefly* on its efficacy to remove the primary symptoms. All deductions from such premises must, therefore, be extremely fallacious and questionable."

Thus much seemed requisite for me to premise, in answer to a charge brought forward in two publications by Dr. Beddoes; as if I had opposed the new plan, while my own practice "was full of promise," and I had no reason for entertaining an opinion "adverse to the successful experience of others." Whether or not I shall now satisfy the learned objector, is a matter of comparative insignificance; since the final result of our controversy does not at all depend on any premature judgment or conjecture which might have been formed, but must be determined by the mass of evidence subsequently laid before the public.

The Second Part of my collection of facts to illustrate the new method of treatment in Syphilis, was published on the 1st of January 1800. I then expressed my hopes, that the cases brought before the world would prove sufficient to decide the leading points connected with this investigation. The effect which followed the publication of those additional cases, shewed that medical men in general accorded with me in opinion: for, notwithstanding the hardy efforts and challenges of intemperate writers, aided by the imposing statements of gentlemen whose experience differed from my own, the practice so warmly recommended was at that very time relinquished throughout all Europe! But, while the greater number of medical men were thus convinced by the evidence of facts, those persons who had most distinguished themselves by introducing the new remedies, perseveringly continued, as I had foretold they would continue, to retain their good opinion of them; and even presented the public with further arguments, in support of that opinion. At the close of my Essay, Part II. it was suggested "that I should have little or nothing more to advance on this subject;" only, I reserved to myself the right, when Part Ist should be reprinted, to supply what was defective in my own cases, as many of them were left in an unfinished state, from the patients being under cure.

This right I have at present exercised. The cases have been

been all very attentively re-perused. Some few parts have been corrected from my register, where errors in trivial matters had crept in, and seemed likely to be laid hold of by captious persons. Other parts have been now completed, which were necessarily left imperfect, from the cause assigned above ; and in this respect I have the satisfaction to say, that my evidence comes forward again with increasing advantage, on behalf of the truths I before maintained. It has also been my endeavour, as opportunity occurred, to answer various objections to my cases, which disappointed critics have advanced in aid of a forlorn undertaking.

One of these inventive geniusses appears to exult in the assistance he has received from “ X. Y. Z. a person extremely conversant in venereal complaints,” who (being unknown) felt himself at liberty to quibble against my cases not only without reason, but against all reason. I could have excused his ignorance, and passed it by unnoticed, if it had not been mingled with so much pertness ; but, for the sake of this cavilling anonymous friend of Dr. Beddoes, I have furnished a few slight annotations to my Essay. He has indeed honoured me with “ severe strictures,” as they are called, extending to thirty-five pages, which I have cursorily answered in about half as many short sentences ; and I hope it will be found, that my replies are at least as solid and convincing, if not as candid and liberal, as the animadversions of my opponents*.

I think

* The want of candour and liberality, not to say of good manners, which characterized the strictures of my opponents, is noticed by several REVIEWERS—e. g.

“ Amongst those who have declared themselves against the new practice, the author of the work before us, early distinguished himself. In the former part of his Essays, he confined himself chiefly to the giving the result of his own trials. The present volume contains the communications of a great number of his correspondents, interspersed with his own observations and remarks. He replies, likewise, to the objections which have been started to the former evidence adduced by him on the subject, *and that in a much more liberal and candid manner than the style and mode of attack on him called for.*” —*Medical and Chirurgical Review, for March 1800, p. 464.*

“ The author concludes his Essay with a severe, but just, rejoinder to the *illiberal and contemptuous observations of Dr. Beddoes, in his last Reports on this subject.* As, in our account of that work, we

I think it will be hereafter regarded as a phenomenon in medical history, that a systematic and persevering attempt was made at the close of the eighteenth century, to banish

freely expressed our disapprobation of the personality and sarcasm which were introduced, we do not feel it necessary for us to add any thing here respecting it. On the whole, Mr. Blair's work will be found a most useful publication; since it exhibits an epitome of what all other writers have advanced on this important controversy, and contains much interesting and original matter."—*London Medical Review*, for April 1800, p. 165.

Plutarch has somewhere observed, that a man may very properly commend himself in vindication of an aspersed character; and, if so, it is much more allowable for a man to adduce the commendations of other persons in his own favour, when attempts are publicly made to injure his reputation. Under such a plea, then, I take the liberty of adding some further extracts from Reviews, &c. in hopes of repelling the unjust and malignant insinuations of Dr. Beddoes.

A writer in the British Critic had said, "We are happy in laying before our readers the result of a series of experiments made by Mr. Blair. The situation of this gentleman, as surgeon of the Lock Hospital, afforded him opportunities superior to most others; and his known character for industry, ability, and integrity, give such weight to his testimony as must powerfully influence the public in the decision hereafter to be formed on this subject."—*British Critic* for July 1798, p. 75.

Dr. Beddoes thereupon observes, that "a surgeon of the Lock may easily, in no respect but opportunity, be superior to a village apothecary. His patrons can bestow the appointment; but, can they also bestow the moral and intellectual qualities necessary to turn it to the advantage of mankind?" Again, he says, "I hear indeed the Essayist's known character for industry, ability, and integrity, mentioned in a tone which will sometimes pass with the unwary for proofs of these qualities, where no other exists. But known, how, and to whom?"

As if these queries were not sufficiently illiberal, the Doctor afterwards, by one stroke of his pen, hopes to deprive me of all merited and hard-earned praise, from whatever quarter it may come! "For the eulogists of the author,—those who vouch for his qualifications, and who, it may be, are of his private acquaintance,—snatch at every occasion of propagating his opinions, almost making it a crime to think differently." So then, I am candidly supposed to have formed a "private acquaintance" with all those numerous critics whom he denominates the "eulogists of the author."

And, still further to take off the edge of their remarks, this discerning gentleman discloses a grand secret, of my partnership with Reviewers! "The sentences in our Reviews strongly resemble the oracles of old. They proceed authoritatively from unseen lips. How does our author avail himself of this fact? He becomes partner of a Review, perhaps its projector. Thus in his own case, he

banish from practice a medicine which (for more than three hundred years) had been found of incalculable benefit in the treatment of Syphilis ! and that this endeavour was urged,
not

he himself, or a colleague for him, *can* pronounce decisions under a neutral mask, and he *can* quote these decisions from his own Review ; and readers, ignorant of secret history, may take them in as good part as if they came from perfectly indifferent judges." Indeed, Dr. Beddoes ! I must be very deep and fertile in expedients, as well as learnedly connected in the Metropolis, to have availed myself of such various authoritative colleagues and eulogists. But to the public sanctions already adduced, I shall add a few more ; which, I presume to think, will also be considered as coming "from perfectly indifferent judges."

" The effects of the nitric acid, in the venereal disease, have been the subject of much inquiry. Opinions different, and even contradictory, have been drawn from experiments ; and the judicious inquirer has been left in a state of doubt. Mr. Blair, *from his opportunities, his experience, and his judgment*, was qualified to appreciate the evidence of the contending parties, and to give a final opinion. In these Essays, he examines the observations of different authors, and traces, in their publications, even of apparently successful cases, a foundation for suspicion or doubt. *This candid and able review of the subject will probably put an end to farther doubts, and prevent new trials.* The medicine has had a full and unprejudiced examination, and has been found inadequate to the expectations which were formed of its utility."—*Critical Review for Jan. 1799*, p. 106.

" A summary view of the attestations which have hitherto been borne to the efficacy of the new remedies, is given by Mr. Blair *with much candour*, but at the same time with occasional and *just strictures* on the evidence and on the conclusions which have been drawn from it."—*Medical and Chirurg. Review*, Sept. 1798, p. 152.

" The present work is useful, as containing a variety of cases, and as it teaches us what we ought long since to have learned, the folly of implicit confidence in specifics. The antisyphilitic powers of oxygen have of late been very confidently asserted ; and the successful application of oxygenated substances in particular cases, had gone far to confirm the omnipotence of acids : in the present Essay, however, (one part only is come before us,) Mr. Blair has minutely detailed a great number of cases in which the nitric acid and the oxygenated muriate of potash were *fairly, and fully, and ineffectually applied*. Some patients were relieved, and some few cured ; but so precarious are the benefits with which the application of oxygen is attended, that it seems not improbable we shall soon return again to mercury."—*Supplementary Number to the Monthly Magazine*, for January 1799, vol. vi. p. 508.

" These Essays contain evidence in direct opposition to what has been suggested by other writers, and *plainly shew that success is far from being so general as it has been represented*, in the new mode of treating the venereal disease. Facts should certainly be nicely ex-

not by unprincipled or ignorant men, but by regular-bred physicians and surgeons! moreover, that the most ungenerous, ignoble, and sordid motives were attributed to those

mined on both sides of this question: we therefore *highly approve* of Mr. Blair's *plan*, as it not only shews what has been done, but puts the practitioner properly on his guard, and teaches him not to be too sanguine in his expectations from these new modes of cure."

—*Analytical Review* for Sept. 1798, p. 260.

"Mr. Blair's own experience has almost uniformly been unfavourable to the newly-recommended practice; and, consequently, tends to confirm the established method of cure—by mercury. *The experiments seem to have been fairly conducted, and to be candidly related.*"—*Monthly Review*, Dec. 1798, p. 455.

"The author appears to us, to have collected the facts with great diligence and perseverance, while he has exhibited them with commendable impartiality. In justice to the talent, assiduity, and moderation displayed by Mr. Blair, in this laborious controversy, we shall furnish our distant readers, who are not yet in possession of this important Essay, with the following instructive corollary."—*Medical and Physical Journal*, vol. iii. pp. 190 and 275.

"When the discoveries of modern chemistry opened a new world to the eyes of scientific inquirers, it became natural to try whether there might not some new medical remedies be found among the acids and gasses. After the discovery of oxygen gas, many, and among others, Dr. Beddoes, appear to have been almost inclined to attribute to this gas those virtues which the alchemists had ascribed to their philosophers' stone and their universal medicine. They have inclined to think that oxygen, applied in its compounds, must operate with wonderful power, for the cure of many diseases. It has been conceived that, applied in nitrous acid, it might effect, much more happily than mercury, and not less certainly, the cure of *Lues Venerea*. Mr. Blair, on the contrary, has for some time given his attention to this subject, with a caution, and yet with an ardent diligence; which we think much more worthy of philosophy and of the surgical and medical arts. He has, for some time, in his own practice, and by very active inquiry among his medical friends, endeavoured to collect that evidence which he thinks necessary to direct medical practice, in the choice between the nitric acid and mercury. The substance of the facts which he has collected, is contained in this, and in a former volume of these Essays.

"It is impossible to deny that, in the application of sound common sense and true philosophy, to medical investigation, Mr. Blair has very highly the advantage over his adversaries. The diligence and discernment with which he has prosecuted these researches, have conferred no small obligations upon the medical and scientific world. How much superior are those men who unite the ardour of science with soberness of mind and soundness of understanding, to those whose passion for science is evinced only by lofty pretensions, and wild flights of the imagination? The concluding part of Mr. Blair's book, entitled *Remarks*

those few practitioners who withstood the efforts of capricious innovators ! So late as the years 1800 and 1801, Dr. B. again heaped a load of abusive personalities and odious reflections upon certain individuals, for the share which they had in exposing the fallacy of the new treatment. He reproaches them for their “*policy*,” their “*subterfuges*,” their “*bigotry*,”—their “*wrong-headedness*,”—their “*chicane*,”—their “*misrepresentation*,”—their “*foul practices*,”—their “*prejudice and cabal*,”—their “*base insinuations*,”—their “*merciless principles*,”—their “*oblique motives*,”—their “*mercantile feelings*,”—and their “*despicably malicious attempts*” which they made “*to raise the hue and cry*.” Well might the Doctor attach to one of his pamphlets this remarkable denunciation, that he was “*conscious of being about to add to the number of publications which must fix disgrace somewhere*.” His conscience, I trust, will plainly tell him where the disgrace should now be fixed.

I shall here entertain the reader with a short specimen of the reasoning and modesty of the above-named gentleman, in his last work upon this subject; wherein he boasts of having “**ARRIVED, IF INQUIRERS EVER DID ARRIVE, AT INCONTESTABLE CERTAINTY :**”

“ The disposition consequent upon taking the lead in ve-

on the preceding Evidence, will, if attentively perused, satisfy every reader of the justice of our approbation.”—Commercial and Agricultural Magazine, for January 1800.

“ The author remarks, that a sufficient number of cases have at length been collected for the final decision of the leading points connected with this investigation; and, we must allow him the merit of having calmly and deliberately weighed the materials communicated to him by his friends and correspondents, without being biassed by their favourable opinion, or irritated by the obloquy of intemperate opponents.

“ The third chapter contains a full and impartial analysis of *New Reports, &c.* published by Thomas Beddoes, M. D. . . . Mr. Blair justly reprobates the intemperate language of his adversaries as well as their premature conclusions. . . . In the fifth and last chapter, *Mr. Blair displays much ability.*

“ *In justice to the author, we do not hesitate to recommend his work to the perusal of every medical practitioner, especially the Surgeon.”—The New London Review, for April 1800.*

I need not multiply examples of disinterested and “ indifferent judges,” who have expressed an opinion the very reverse of that which Dr. Beddoes endeavours to propagate respecting my Essay. But, I purposely avoid quoting the commendations of *private individuals.*

nereal practice, or being much immersed in it, will sometimes produce partial feelings and partial trials of the anti-venereal medicines.

" Under correction of persons who know the world, and at the risk of an attempt on the part of a second adversary, as despicably *malicious* as the first, to raise the hue-and-cry against the slanderer of his brethren, I repeat my former remark on the effect of *interest*. I say that some surgeons, from an apprehension that their wheels can no more go on than the mines of Spanish America, without the aid of the slippery son of Atlas, will give a rival remedy no trial, or, what is much worse, an imperfect trial. And these surgeons will as often be those who stand at the top of the profession, as those at the opposite extremity.

" In times like the present, I know also that there will be members of the same profession ready to trample under foot all considerations of gain, and to plant themselves between mankind and the prejudices of their narrower colleagues. It is I believe in the nature of the medical appointments in India, to exempt men's minds from the operation of this species of illiberality. *This may be ONE REASON why we have heard so little of failures there.*

" I apprehend, there will long exist surgeons, who, whatever offers, and whether good or ill betide, will inexorably repeat to every patient—‘*the mercury, Mr. —, by all means; we must go on with the mercury, Sir:*’ Thus instead of looking to the ultimate effect of their art, by a delusion of association, like that in consequence of which our passions finally resolve themselves into the love of gold, they fix all their affections upon particular means of producing that effect. Some have even been thought to take downright pleasure in the immediate operation of mercury and the knife; and are not well content, without inflicting their full severity. Every sort of pedantry is odious enough; but we find none, except perhaps the pedantry of the statesman, *merciless in principle*, but that of the surgeon. From all other pedants you escape at the expense of transitory disgust; but the surgeon-pedant will amerce you of your constitution or your limbs."

This, we observe, is Dr. Beddoes' SECOND REASON for the general opposition raised against the new plan of treatment, and the difficulty of its introduction. "With such

such impediments the reader must see, that the power of the new antivenereal remedies being supposed equal even to that of mercury, it was impracticable to introduce them without encountering all the storms and all the wiles of controversial warfare.

" Supposing further, the witnesses that have appeared in the present cause, respectively competent to distinguish the nature of the phenomena, and (with perhaps a single exception) sincerely to have related what they believe themselves to have seen ; may we not hope to discover some criterion for the erroneous judgment concerning the result, on whichever side the mistake may happen to lie ? Besides want of efficacy in the substances employed, several reasons may be assigned for failures."

For my own part, I believe, as I always did, that the erroneous conclusions have arisen from one of these two causes :—1st, From insufficient exhibition of the remedy ; or 2dly, From mistake in the nature of the symptoms considered as venereal. The advocates for nitrous acid, &c. regard the *first* as the common source of error ; but I am of opinion, the *second* is the true cause in the majority of alleged cures of Syphilis. Herein it is that Dr. Beddoes and myself most widely differ in our judgment : for he thinks " the body of evidence will not be assailed on this side." See his *Communications respecting the Nitrous Acid, London, 1800*, p. xvi.

" The number of cases in which the acids have been attested to be successful," Dr. B. says in his *Communications*, " can scarce fall short of fifteen hundred ; and among these occur as bad and inveterate primary cases as can be imagined ; cases verging towards secondary ; and a sufficient proportion of secondary, which the efficacy of the new medicines has prevented from being larger." *** * * " Yet some, much mistaking their talents for necromancy, have thought, that by a few strokes, they could blot out all this virulence of diseases with a grey goose quill !"

Now, putting aside the wit and bitterness of our critic, I beg leave to tell him that this is not a true statement of facts : for " a sufficient proportion of secondary cases" out of those fifteen hundred cures, has not been adduced. The grand point at issue is, whether the *worst* cases are curable by the acids ? and by the worst I mean, the advanced stages of

of the disease, usually named a confirmed Syphilis, wherein there is evidence that the venereal virus has been absorbed and carried into the constitution. I am not one of those rigorous logicians who “wait for superfluity of demonstration;” but I am quite satisfied with my own efforts to elicit the truth, and cannot perceive how Dr. Beddoes or his fellow-labourers have arrived at incontrovertible certainty, with so few secondary cases.

I very much regret that Dr. B.’s letter of October 10th, 1800, containing a formal “challenge, addressed to the members of the surgical profession in general,” was never accepted; and I suspect one motive for their neglect might be, that he was too acrimonious in his remarks, too petulant in his conduct, too overbearing to his equals,—besides appearing to have thrown down the gauntlet, as though he “exclusively possessed the medical prowess necessary for the achievement.” I took considerable pains to stir up both the physicians and surgeons in London, to adopt his plan and to co-operate with him, as well by defraying the expense as by sending patients to the Pneumatic Institution at Bristol: but my attempts were vain, and the proposed scheme of a public scrutiny came to nothing; although it was revived again in the year 1801, and fresh papers were then circulated, announcing that “THE SUCCESSFUL EXPERIENCE PROBABLY AMOUNTED TO THREE THOUSAND PRIMARY AND SECONDARY CASES.” I presume, the question is now set at rest for ever; and it only remains for me to notice what opinions are finally entertained on this subject in different parts of the continent.

It is particularly deserving of observation, that in three large cities, London, Dublin, and Warsaw, where the new plan was tried at the respective hospitals for venereal patients, it totally failed! Dr. Beddoes himself has mentioned the complete want of success in about a hundred cases, treated at the Lock Hospital of Dublin.

Dr. Bötticher entirely failed in his trials at the hospital called *St. Lazarus* in Warsaw, which is exclusively appropriated to the cure of Syphilis; and all the patients, whom he had long in vain treated with the acid or the oxygenated muriate of potash, were at last cured by mercurial remedies. This author agrees with me in the practical conclusion, that acids

acids are very beneficial against the symptoms produced by an incautious exhibition of mercury *.

The Germans, who have been reproached with the fault of closely following the steps of foreign innovators, boast that they were not seduced by the plausible accounts of some English and French practitioners, who cried up the virtues of the new remedies too hastily ; so that Dr. Cappel of Göttingen says, he knows of no German physician who appeared as a zealous advocate for their problematical advantages.—See Girtanner's Treatise on the Venereal Disease, English translation, Book IV. Chap. XXV. in which the Göttingen Professor does me the justice to distinguish between the opinions I advanced, and those of my competitors.

Dr. Berlinghieri, Professor of Anatomy at Pisa, in his late book on venereal complaints, after having recited the cures performed in England and France by means of the acid, draws an inference that most of the symptoms would have yielded to a generous diet, &c. without taking either the acid or mercury ; and he even maintains, that the common practice of administering mercurial remedies in local venereal disorders, especially chancres, is highly injudicious. He does not believe that the oxygenated medicines have any power whatever in curing a Syphilis, and is of opinion that the complaints actually so cured were not venereal.

Dr. Chiaretti employed the acid for pains and exostoses, without success, and then effected a complete cure with mercury. Mr. Giorgi also tried the acid in the hospital of Florence, with quite unfavourable results. The experiments made by the Commissaries of the Society of Medicine at Paris, according to Dr. Berlinghieri's report, appeared to refute the idea of its antivenereal powers. Nay, M. Alyon himself, who has used it in more than four hundred cases, at length acknowledges that this much-boasted specific is inadequate to the cure of *secondary symptoms* !

M. Alyon's words are as follow : “ L'acide nitreux et l'acide nitrique n'ont point encore été employés contre les

* I obtained this information chiefly from the fourth edition of Girtanner's celebrated Treatise on the Venereal Disease ; a work which I have caused to be translated, and am on the eve of publishing, with numerous illustrations and notes.

symptômes secondaires de la maladie vénérienne ; je pense même comme l'auteur, qu'ils seraient insuffisans pour dompter les douleurs ostéocopes, les exostoses, etc. quoique j'aye par devers moi quelques exemples positifs contraires à cette assertion ; mais il ne s'ensuit pas du tout, que les acides n'ont aucun pouvoir sur le virus vénérien.

“ Il reste démontré pour moi, que l'oxygène a le pouvoir de dompter la très-grande majorité des symptômes primitifs de la maladie vénérienne, et que si on veut l'employer, sans partialité, on conviendra de son efficacité contre les chancre, les bubons, et la gonorrhée. Je n'ai point assez de faits pour juger de son action dans les cas de vérole confirmée ; je le crois même insuffisant dans ces eas, qui éludent aussi le plus souvent les effets du mercure.

“ Je puis donc assurer mes lecteurs, qu'on a dit beaucoup trop de bien, et beaucoup trop de mal de l'oxygène ; qu'il est impossible de refuser des propriétés anti-vénériennes à l'acide nitrique, employé dans les eas que je vais indiquer ; qu'il est également impossible d'admettre qu'il guérit dans tous les cas, qu'il soit applicable à tous les tempéramens, qu'il soit suffisant dans les maladies très-compliquées ou anciennes.

“ Les bubons, les chancre, les gonorrhées cèdent à l'acide seul ; mais dans les cas très-compliqués ou anciens, on peut joindre à la limonade nitrique, l'usage de quelques frottements mercurielles, sur la partie latérale interne des cuisses, où se rencontrent les vaisseaux lymphatiques.”

At the military hospital of Mézières, the translator of Bell's Treatise saw the acid tried frequently in the worst venereal symptoms ; which were indeed dissipated for a time, but recurred again, even during the severest discipline. He nevertheless remarks, that although the advocates for the oxygenated remedies “ have not been able to banish mercury from the treatment of venereal complaints, their experiments have at least convinced us that in many instances this medicine has been administered without necessity ; they have taught us to distinguish the symptoms of Syphilis from those which are produced by other causes. For the acid exhibited in primary affections may serve as a kind of touchstone, to detect the real character of the disease.” We learn also from Dr. Bosquillon, that although the memoir of Cit. Alyon at first seduced many persons of

the

the profession, and even occasioned the Society of Medicine of Paris to afford him their sanction, the new doctrine produced no partizan in France, besides Swediaur.

Dr. Bosquillon does not allow that the two cases in which I cured my patients with the acid were venereal : " On trouve dans cet ouvrage," speaking of the Essay, " quantité d'observations très-propres à distinguer les vrais symptômes de la Syphilis de ceux qui leur ressemblent ; l'auteur montre par-tout une grande circonspection.—*J'observerai qu'on ne doit pas même mettre au nombre des symptômes de Syphilis ceux que M. Blair a guéris avec l'acide nitrique.*

" La maniere dont ces symptômes ont guéri, prouve suffisamment qu'ils n'étoient pas vénériens. Une irritation quelconque du vagin, ou des grandes lèvres, est souvent suivie de gonorrhée, d'engorgemens, et même d'ulcération des parties contiguës. J'ai vu les sang-sues appliquées sur les grandes lèvres, occasionner non-seulement des symptômes de ce genre, mais même des poireaux, des tumeurs inflammatoires dans les ains, et des douleurs dans le bas-ventre, qui ont obligé de recourir aux saignées et aux antiphlogistiques. Les ulcères qui ont succédé aux morsures des sang-sues, resembloient beaucoup à des chancres vénériens, et ont cependant cédé à l'application seule du cérat.

" Tout lecteur instruit des caractères qui distinguent la Syphilis, reconnoîtra aisément la source des erreurs qu'ont commises ceux qui nous vantent l'efficacité des substances oxygénées dans les affections syphilitiques. Ils ont voulu bannir un remède dont l'efficacité étoit reconnue depuis trois siècles, sous prétexte qu'ils avoient guéri par d'autres moyens des affections qui avoient résisté pendant plusieurs années à ce même remède, administré avec tout le soin possible. Ce fait seul auroit dû leur faire soupçonner que ces affections pouvoient être produites par le mercure même, ou par toute autre cause que le virus syphilitique.

" On ne trouve donc qu'exagérations et erreurs dans ce qu'ont écrit les partisans des substances oxygénées ; leur imagination échauffée par les idées qu'ils s'étoient formées de l'activité de l'oxygène, leur a fait saisir avec avidité et sans examen, les moindres circonstances favorables en apparence à leur opinion ; on les voit même souvent fort embarrassées de déterminer la nature des symptômes dans les-quelcs ces substances leur ont réussi."

So has ended this important discussion in France, Italy, Poland, and Germany! Probably, too, the medical gentlemen in the East Indies will soon resume their former methods of practice.

To this THIRD edition, I have added some farther results of my own experience with the acid; also, an abstract of the principal cases in which the Oriental practitioners treated their patients with success: and it should be particularly remembered, that the cases alluded to, as well as many more recited in Dr. Beddoes' final "Communications," were those which first of all claimed the attention of medical men in Europe. I cannot but observe, how ambiguous and incomplete most of the histories of these supposed syphilitic cases are; and I ought also to notice, that Mr. Deane, of the 86th regiment, after a very fair trial, tells his friend Mr. Scott he "*does not believe the nitric acid is of sufficient efficacy to supersede the use of mercury.*"

If Dr. Rollo and Mr. Hammick, with the other zealous gentlemen in England, who contributed to raise the public expectation so high, were at this time to express their feelings respecting the subject of the present controversy, I suspect they would speak a little more guardedly than they did at first. The "*further accounts of the practice in Lues Venerea,*" which Dr. Rollo promised in a letter dated the 14th of June 1800, have not yet appeared. And the language of Mr. Hammick to Dr. Beddoes, in 1799, is comparatively tame: he sees "*no great reason*" to alter his opinion, though in some cases the new remedies shewed "*no antisyphilitic power whatever.*" Thus, by little and little, those "**BRILLIANT AND SPREADING PROSPECTS,**" which Dr. Beddoes discovered by the light of the new philosophy, are found to be darker and darker, in proportion as we examine them with more scrupulous attention. It would, therefore, have been quite as prudent if this physician had not divulged his resolution of defending "*the saline antisyphilitics,*" in spite of the "*clamour and disappointment* of surgical authors and surgical practitioners; who (he thinks) may fear lest their own consequence should be diminished by the introduction of remedies so much less hazardous, and probably of more easy management, than mercury."

Great Russel Street, Bloomsbury.

W. BLAIR.

AN
ESSAY
ON THE
FENEREAL DISEASE.

PART FIRST.

CHAPTER I.

Preliminary Observations.

MORE than three centuries have elapsed since the introduction of mercury for the cure of the Venereal Disease ; during which period, a variety of other remedies have been proposed, as substitutes for that mineral. Among these, certain vegetable productions have gained the greatest number of advocates ; but, on making a fair and extensive trial of their comparative virtues, mankind are almost universally persuaded that, at present, we are in possession of no antivenereal remedy so efficacious as mercury. The inconveniences, however, which sometimes arise from the injudicious administration of this medicine, have left room for a reasonable wish that we could obtain a milder antidote against the syphilitic virus.

A NEW SPECIFIC has lately been offered to the world, which (if we may believe its adherents) is not only less noxious to the constitution of our patients, but even more certain and more expeditious in producing its salutary effects, than mercury itself ; and which, consequently, is found to be in all respects its superior. “ In a few years” (says Mr. Helenus Scott) “ I think that mercury, as a remedy for Lues Venerea, will be banished by the nitric acid ;

and that the poison of Syphilis may, in a great measure, be extinguished over the face of the earth."

We have been so frequently amused and deceived with the cry of "*a new specific,*" that, while I join heartily in the general wish for one in the Venereal Disease, I cannot forbear suggesting the probable mischief which a pretension of this kind must occasion, before its fallacy be detected; especially if men of reputation and known talents combine in extolling an uncertain remedy, while we are in the actual possession of an almost infallible one.

"*The use of OPIUM, as a specific in the venereal disease,*" was much insisted on, by several practitioners of eminence, nearly thirty years ago. Opium was then said to have performed wonders, where mercury had never been used, and in various stages of the disorder. Although its success was not absolutely certain, the proportion of successful cases to those in which this remedy did not effect a cure, was related to be as three to one; and among those in which it failed, there were many wherein mercury proved equally ineffectual. Numerous instances of reputed cures (*a*) are still on record, and may therefore be examined in all their circumstances. Nor were these merely temporary effects: for, after a long period of time, numbers of patients experienced no relapse; and, consequently, there was the highest probability of their having been perfectly cured. What can be said to all this? That opium is a specific? Or, that medical men joined in propagating wilful falsehoods? No surely: But, that gentlemen were not sufficiently accurate in conducting their experiments, and in selecting the subjects of them; so that although they published only what they believed

(a) Published by Dr. Schœpff, Dr. Michaelis, Mr. Grant, &c. &c.

to be strictly true, mankind were obliged, by contrary evidence and farther examination, to reject the remedy as totally inadequate in a GENUINE SYPHILIS.

The improvement we should make of such instances of human imbecility, is to fortify our minds against the first impression of captivating reports, and to inquire deliberately into the proofs by which they are supported. To resume, therefore, the subject of *Nitric Acid*, which is now offered to the world as equal, if not greatly superior, to mercury, in all the forms and stages of Syphilis: my present design is, to investigate the real merits of this new plan of treatment, with all possible candour and circumspection.

The introduction of a new medicine is usually accompanied with difficulties. There is danger, on one side, lest its virtues should be exaggerated beyond the limits of truth, through the zeal and precipitancy (*b*) of its advocates; while, on the other hand, there is cause to apprehend that its real merits may be denied, by supercilious and prejudiced practitioners. In either case, it must fall into undeserved discredit.

Although I will not say, with Dr. Beddoes, “I rejoice that a controversy is likely to arise,” I have no hesitation in agreeing with him, “that the interest of the public requires the evidence should be rigorously scrutinized (*c*).”

In prosecuting so important an inquiry, I hope

(*b*) “ Si la médecine en effet est si peu avancée, ou si la pratique est en général si dangereuse, c'est par l'inexactitude qu'on porte presque toujours dans l'observation des faits; c'est par la légèreté avec laquelle on se décide en faveur d'un remède qu'on veut mettre en vogue, et dont on est toujours disposé à exagérer les vertus.”—*La Médecine éclairée*, tom. iv. p. 102.

(*c*) See a letter from Dr. Beddoes in the Monthly Magazine for November 1797.

full credit will be given me when I declare that I do not intend to depreciate the character of any gentleman in the profession. But, in my researches after truth, I am obliged to lose sight of authorities, and simply attach myself to matters of fact. “ The honour of our art and the moral character of its professors suffer (Mr. Pott observes) whenever we pay so blind deference to any one as prevents us from using our own judgments, and from declaring freely the results of our experiments.” Truth is not the child of authority, but of patient and repeated observation. *Amicus Plato, amicus Socrates, sed magis amica Veritas.*

The idea of curing the Venereal Disease by means of acids, although it commonly passes for a modern discovery, is not so entirely new as is generally believed. Without insisting on a passage of FRACASTORIUS, in the second Book of his elegant Poem (*d*), where he strongly recommends the use of *Lemons*, I may suggest that vegetable acids were employed externally for the cure of Syphilis, by some of the oldest writers on this disorder; and they were given internally, for the same purpose, about the beginning of the last century, if not earlier.

Two of the very first authors on this disease, Jo-

(d) “ Sed neque carminibus neglecta silibere nostris
 Hesperidum decus, & Medarum gloria CITRE,
 Sylvarum : si fortè sacris cantata poëtis
 Parte quoque hâc medicam non dedignabere Musam.
 Sic tibi sit semper viridis coma, semper opaca,
 Semper flore novo redolens, sic semper honesta
 Per viridem pomis sylvam pendentibus aureis.
 Ergò, ubi nitendum est cæcis te opponere morbi
 Seminibus, vi mira arbor Citherea præstat.
 Quippe illam Citherea, suum dàm plorat Adonim,
 Munere donavit multo, & virtutibus auxit.”

SEPH GRÜNBECK (*e*) and CONRAD SCHELLIG (*f*), who lived when it broke out in Europe at the end of the 15th century, shewed a strong predilection for acids in the diet of persons afflicted with Syphilis: but there is no reason to believe that *mineral* acids were employed as internal remedies prior to the use of them by Basil Valentine, Paracelsus, Van Helmont, and Glauber. In the second part of Glauber's work on “*Philosophical Furnaces*,” 4to, *Lond.* 1652, pp. 68, 69, 70, he tells us, the “oil of vitriol” was highly esteemed by his predecessors, and that Basil Valentine and Paracelsus “counted it one of the four maine pillars of physic;” that he now published the virtues and preparation of it, “for the benefit of poor patients,” though he formerly “kept it always very secret.” He says, the “sweet oil of vitriol” will perfectly relieve many chronic complaints, even when deemed incurable; and “*that the pox, leprosie, and other like diseases proceeding from infection*

(*e*) “Hæ vero carnes cum aceto aut agresta, succo limonum granatorum aut arantii condiantur, laudanturque eo tempore acetum bonum magis quam acria, quæ non sic a corruptione præservant, nec sic humorum et spirituum inflammationem extinguunt. Vescuntur insuper his carnibus, assis potius, quam elixis, fercula sint lenticulæ, cum aceto conditæ, portulaca, lactuca quoque præparata aceto. Potus sit vinum bonum cum meracum, sed dilutum, neque dulce, vel aqua permixta aceto, vel agresta, vel succo grauitorum. Similiter syrapi acetosi aqua permixti commendantur, et sic patet prima corporum purificatio.”—*Liberus JOSEPHI GRÜNBECKII de Mentulagra, alias Morbo Gallico.* A. D. 1503.

(*f*) “Et eorum cibaria sint alterata cum aceto passulato, vel cum aliis frigidis acetosis alterata, ut decoctione endiviæ, portulacæ, lactucæ, acetosæ, scabiosæ, quatuor seminum frigidorum majorum, aut agresta, vino berberis, vino granatorum, succo citoniorum, pirorum, succo ribes, succo limonum, succo pomorum aranciæ vel acetositate citri, & sic de aliis, ut supra in regimine præservativo.”—CONRAD SCHELLIG, in *Pustulas malas Morbum, quem Malum de Francia Vulgus appellat.* Circ. A. D. 1502.

of the blood, are easily cured thereby : also, it healeth safely and admirably all open sores and stinking ulcers, from what cause soever they proceed, if they be anointed therewith, and the same also be inwardly used besides." Glauber has been quoted by Dr. Bosquillon, of Paris (in the second volume of his Translation of Bell's Treatise, p. 510), as commanding the internal and external use of *muriatic acid* in ulcers and fungous tumours produced by the venereal virus ; though I have not met with this observation myself in Glauber's writings.

Dr. Daniel Turner, in his "Practical Dissertation on the Venereal Disease" (Ed. 5th, part 1st, page 33), mentions the following case of a patient who had been treated by the citric acid. "Being at one time in company with that excellent practitioner Mr. Charles Bernard, a gentleman came into his study, as I had reason to believe, upon some private business ; upon which I retired into another room, when in a few minutes he came to me, and desired me to come and see the effects of a new method of curing the pox. The patient had been for two months under the care of a noted *Philo-acidus*, who placed the cause of this (and I think most other diseases) in an Alkaly, for a light infection therefrom : in order to eradicate which, he was advised to eat half a dozen of the largest lemons he could get, daily, besides good store of verjuice at his meals, which method (after some other prescriptions) was to be continued for a month ; by which time, instead of his cure, he found himself crusted over with inveterate scabs and other pustules ; yet was told that he was well, and that these would scale away of themselves ; which he was ordered by the gentleman he now came to consult, that he would make trial of ; as he did a little while, till some ulcers growing corrosive, and eating farther in, by reason of the acrimony of the humours,

humours underneath, forced him to comply with a mercurial ptyalism, under this artist's care, by which his cure was soon compleated."

The same author likewise notices an opposite sect of practitioners, the *Miso-acidi*, whose theory led them to the use of alcaline remedies in the Lues Venerea: he then suggests, that "by being obstinately wedded to some mere hypothesis, or affecting a chynical philosophic babling, subjecting medicine (which is incompatible) to a mathematick standard, and amusing the patient with a jargon of hard words, you may very probably do mischief, if not utterly destroy him."

The illustrious Chancellor BACON, in his masterly work *De Augmentis Scientiarum*, mentions it as one of the diseases of Authors, that they "often infect their speculations and doctrines with some peculiar opinions they happen to be fond of, or the particular sciences to which they have most applied." Hence, the mechanical physicians have had their day, and the chemists are again assuming the right of combating diseases upon their own peculiar principles.

Though the "babbling" of Paracelsus and Van Helmont is superseded by the phraseology of modern illumination, it may be questioned, perhaps, whether either of them have greatly facilitated the cure of diseases. I am very far from insinuating that experimental chemistry has been useless in the practice of medicine; but I would guard young practitioners against that licentious spirit of innovation which has bewitched some of our speculative inquirers after knowledge. "Nihil magis à vera morborum cognitione mentem retrahit, quam effrænis illa speculandi disputandique licentia, cui in ipsa praxi adeò indulsere medici Arabes, et quotquot post eos fuere Galenici." *Praxeos Medicæ, Bagliv. Lib. i. chap. 1. sec. 5.*

"No men (says Mr. Pearson) are so prone to indulge in fanciful speculations, as those who are without practice; for, having little occasion to bring their notions to the test of actual experience, they proceed boldly in forming splendid and attractive theories, without the least fear of those consequences which would be apprehended by men of an established reputation and long experience." Observations, &c. on Lues Venerea, Introd..p. lviii.

CHAPTER II.

A summary View of the Attestations which have been hitherto borne to the Efficacy of the new Anti-venereal Remedies.

SECTION the First.—*Mr. Scott's Testimony.*

IT is well known that all the calces of mercury, used in medicine, contain a portion of oxygen or pure air; and it was some years ago suggested by Dr. Girtanner, of Göttingen, that to the operation of this active principle we are indebted for the cure of Syphilis, when mercury has been administered: but Mr. Helenus Scott, surgeon in the East India Company's service, at Bombay, first endeavoured to verify this doctrine by actual experiment. The nitric acid (*g*), containing about four parts of pure air and

(*g*) The Acid of Nitre is obtained in various degrees of oxygenation. When the proportion of oxygen to that of azot is less than three of the former to one of the latter, it is termed *nitrous* acid; and in this state fumes of a red colour are very freely emitted: but when there are four parts of oxygen, by weight, combined with one part of azot, the acid is transparent and colourless, emits no vapour, its constituent parts are more firmly united than in the other species, and it is denominated *nitric* acid.

one of azot, was the first substance that occurred to him, as being fit for a course of experiments in the Venereal Disease : he tried this acid also in some other complaints ; the result of which it is not my present business to notice (*h*).

How far the new theory is supported by chemical facts, is a point which I shall not discuss ; but there certainly are some weighty reasons for rejecting it, and among them is the following by Dr. Fourcroy :

“ Il ne faut pas conclure, des vertus antisiphilitiques de l’acide nitrique, que c’est à l’oxygène qu’il doit son energie ; qu’il le cède aux matières animales ou aux organes sur lesquelles il est porté. J’avoue que cette conclusion ne me paraît nullement d’accord avec les propriétés connues de l’acide nitrique, non plus qu’avec celles de tous les acides végétaux en général. En effet il y a cette différence remarquable entre les acides végétaux et ceux qui sont formés d’un radical simple, et sur-tout de l’azote uni à l’oxygène ; que ce dernier principe y étant adhérent à-la-fois au carbone et à l’hydrogène auquel il tient beaucoup, ne peut en être séparé si facilement qu’il l’est des acides radicaux simples. C’est ce qu’annoncent toutes les expériences faites jusqu’ici sur les acides végétaux. Tout cela rend difficile et même impossible à concevoir la séparation de l’oxygène de l’acide citrique.” Bosquillon’s Translation of Bell’s Treatise on the Venereal Disease, vol. ii. p. 493. Paris, 1802.

In September 1793, the nitric acid was administered, by Mr. Scott’s desire, to a person who had a head-ach, suspected to arise from the Lues Venerea : he had taken several courses of mercury, which re-

(*h*) The following observations of Mr. H. Scott are extracted from a small pamphlet, which was sent to Sir Joseph Banks, entitled “ Some Letters upon the application of the nitric Acid to Medicine. From the Bombay Courier, 1797.”

moved the symptoms ; but they constantly returned after a certain period. On using the acid, about a fortnight, the patient was perfectly freed from his head-ach, and remained very well for a few months, as was usual to him after mercury.

Mr. Scott's first letter is dated April the 30th, 1796 ; at which time, he alledges, that the nitric acid had been tried so fully as to satisfy him of its efficacy. His words are as follow : "I have now had a pretty extensive experience of the good effects of the nitric acid in Syphilis ; and I have reason to believe, that it is not *in general* less effectual than mercury in removing that disease, IN ALL ITS FORMS AND IN EVERY STAGE OF ITS CONTINUANCE. I think that in some cases it has even *superior powers* ; for I have succeeded completely with the acid, when mercury administered both in this country, and in Europe, for years together, had failed of success.

" A mass of mercury in the circulation produces many disagreeable effects, that make it often necessary to give over its use before it has answered its intention ; but the nitric acid may be taken a long time without any material injury to the health, nor are its effects on the mouth, in producing inflammation and a flow of saliva, so disagreeable as from mercury.

" As the acid I distil is not strong, and is of unequal strength at different times, I am regulated chiefly by the taste in giving it. I make two pints of water as acid as it can well be drank. This quantity is finished every twenty-four hours ; taking about a madeira glass full only at a time.

" I have sometimes removed syphilitic symptoms with the acid in *five days* ; more commonly, I think they give way in a fortnight ; but sometimes, though seldom, they continue for twenty days without any apparent relief. I have cured Syphilis with the acid

under a variety of forms, where no other remedy had ever been employed ; and for two years, I have seen no relapse in those cases. I have administered it against the primary symptoms of the disease ; and I have given it for exostoses, for carious bones, for nocturnal pains, for eruptions and ulcers of the skin, *and for all the train of misery that is attendant on Lues.*"

This respectable writer concludes by hinting, " that several of his friends had begun to use the nitric acid in Syphilis, and that an account of their experience should make the subject of a future paper." "I hope," says he, "this slight account will induce medical practitioners to try the effect of the nitric acid in Syphilis ; a disease which, in this climate (viz. the East Indies), is so frequently the disgrace of their art (*i.*)".

The second letter of Mr. Scott is dated June the 11th, 1796. He therein endeavours to obviate an objection which might be made against the acid, on account of its decomposing the teeth : his method is, to mix the congee of rice with it, or to sweeten it with sugar or liquorice-root. Although these additions may deprive the remedy of some of its oxygen, he " has not found that they diminish its effect."

Mr. Scott also notices that when the acid has been " united with the earth of alum, it had the advantage of not acting in the same way on the teeth. From this nitric clay he obtained the same effects as from the nitric acid."

Some stress has been laid, by certain medical prac-

(*i*) Mr. Scott, in a letter to Dr. Beddoes, dated 16 Dec. 1799, says, " I have been blamed for giving too warm a testimony of my success. I have, however, *nothing to detract*" [retract] "*from the first letter that I published on the subject.*"

titioners, on the purity and consequent strength of the acid used in syphilitic affections: they suppose that the failures are often to be attributed to the weak powers of the remedy. But Mr. Scott, whose success appears to be inferior to that of no other gentleman, was very indifferent about the purity of the acid he used, and was chiefly guided by its taste in the proportion he exhibited. “The acid of nitre that I first employed for internal purposes was the palest coloured acid that I could procure from Apothecaries Hall. This contains a great deal of marine acid.” When Mr. Scott had used all he had from Apothecaries Hall, he procured more by means of an apparatus for that purpose, and gives a description of it in this second letter. Of the acid so prepared, he says, “I gave one or two ounces (*j*) by measure every day, sufficiently diluted with water. As this was precisely the same with the acid of nitre from Apothecaries Hall, the effects of which I was well acquainted with from experience, I was less anxious to separate the marine acid. This is the acid that I have used in almost all my trials.”

His third letter, dated July 22, 1797, among other particulars, mentions a new discovery in regard to the acid, which was deemed “of sufficient consequence to be laid before the public, as it seems to remove the chief objections that have been brought against it by practitioners: these objections are its unpleasant taste and bulky form. I have now made it probable that, like mercury, the nitric acid is absorbed by the skin, and afterwards produces in the

(*j*) The quantity here mentioned may seem to be a mistake: but we afterwards find that Mr. J. Mac Grigor of Bombay took fourteen drachms of the acid *per day*, and that he even administered sixteen drachms daily in two cases! See pp. 90 and 92 of Beddoes’ *Communications*, 1800.

system the same effects that arose from its internal use. In this way I have tried it only in two instances, and with a degree of success that I could hardly have expected. The skin can hardly bear the application of the acid in a stronger state than it can be drank.

" The first case was that of a gentleman who for many months had laboured under a variety of the most dismal symptoms of Syphilis, for which mercury gave him but an imperfect and temporary relief. He could not retain the nitric acid on his stomach in a sufficient quantity to effect a cure. In this situation it struck me to advise him to bathe his legs for an hour or two daily, by surrounding them with cloths which he kept wet with water acidulated with the nitric acid : he soon experienced a remarkable relief ; his skin became clear, which on some parts had long had the characteristic eruptions of this disease ; his strength returned, and his nocturnal pains went away. I believe he is now perfectly cured, as he has been in good health for three months."

" In another case the pains of the tibiæ from Syphilis were alleviated by a nitric bath ; but this person was obliged to leave Bombay after he had used it only for a few days ; nor have I heard any thing from him since that time."

The novelty and supposed advantage of this mode of treating venereal patients, will naturally excite the reader's curiosity, if not his hopes. The next letter of Mr. Scott (which bears date the 5th of August 1797) gives a further account of the success he met with, in using the acid bath.

" Since the publication of my letter of the 22d of last month, I have seen a case of Lues Venerea, cured by bathing in the diluted nitric acid, that affords me THE MOST SATISFACTORY evidence of its great and truly surprising efficacy for that disease."

"A young

“ A young man to whom I had given, for symptoms of Syphilis, three different courses of mercury in the space of eight months, with all the care that I could employ, found himself relapse in a short time after each of them : from the last course his mouth, which was very sore, had hardly recovered before his nocturnal pains were renewed, his headaches returned, and swellings in several parts made their appearance, his joints became stiff, so that he could hardly crawl from one chair to another ; his arms were afflicted in a similar way to his legs, and one of them remained perfectly immovable. But a few days ago he was indeed a very wretched creature.

“ On the 26th of last month, I made him immerse his legs and part of his thighs for an hour in the morning and an hour in the evening, in a wooden vessel, which contained water so much acidulated with the nitric acid that the skin could scarcely bear it without uneasiness. In two days afterwards he could make use of his rigid arm ; in the space of four days the pains had left both his arms, his head, and one of his legs ; for three days more the pain in the other leg continued to decrease, and on the fourth it nearly went away : he is already without pain or complaint, and I believe could walk a mile without uneasiness.”

“ As the same acidulous water will answer for a long time, I now find that a smaller quantity of the acid will cure the disease when applied to the skin, than when taken into the stomach. From the few *although decisive* cases that I have already seen, I do suppose that bathing in the nitric acid, properly diluted with water, is still more effectual than its internal use ; and that *either way of administering it is to be preferred to mercury, as more powerful and entirely harmless.*”

"IN A FEW YEARS, I THINK THAT MERCURY, AS A REMEDY FOR LUES VENEREA, WILL BE BANISHED BY THIS ACID; and in some of my dreams for the improvement of the condition of man, I even imagine that the poison of Syphilis may, in a great measure, be extinguished over the face of the earth, not by the efforts of the magistrate, but by an agent LIKE THIS, safe, simple, and efficacious."

The reader will permit me to arrest his attention for a moment, before I close this evidence of Mr. Helenus Scott. The particulars related above are the result of his practice during a series of years. In his first letter he suggests that "the reputation of specifics, with the exception of a few instances, has arisen only from the weakness of the human mind;" he therefore very properly inquires, "Am I too deceiving myself, and attempting to lead others into error (k)?" This question, connected with his subsequent reports, would incline me to the idea, that he had conducted his experiments with the utmost caution, and related them with the greatest possible fidelity. His success, in most respects, seems to have been complete, and his hopes, as to the utility of his discoveries, are extremely sanguine. Under these impressions then, I wish the following authorities, in favour of the new plan of treatment, to be perused; because, however strongly Mr. Scott has represented his views, practitioners will be found approving and adopting the same plan and the same views in different parts of Europe.

(k) The confidence of Dr. Beddoes (August 1800) was so fixed, that he says, "this will be the last medical controversy in which cabal will be able to find so many subterfuges. We have arrived, if inquirers ever did arrive, at *incontestable certainty*."

SECTION the Second.—(l) *Reports by Dr. Currie, Dr. Trotter, Dr. Rollo, Mr. Cruickshank, Dr. Irwin, Dr. Jameson, and Dr. Wittman.*

I. DR. CURRIE, of Liverpool, in a letter to Dr. Rollo, dated February the 20th, 1797, speaking of the acid applied by Mr. Scott to the cure of Lues Venerea, says, “I have proved this practice in various instances, and can assure you of its extraordinary success. I gave one dram of the acid daily in a pint and a half or two pints of water.”

In another letter, of the 18th of March 1797, Dr. Currie remarks, that “there is no question about the antivenereal effects of the nitrous acid. That which I have used has been the nitrous, not the nitric; for I had not the latter by me, and I found the former succeed.”

II. DR. TROTTER, Physician to His Majesty’s fleet, in a letter from Portsmouth to Dr. Rollo, dated the 3d of April 1797, observes, that “three cases of inveterate Syphilis have been cured here by nitric acid, as described by Mr. Scott in Dr. Beddoes’ last work.”

III. DR. ROLLO, Surgeon-general of the Royal Artillery at Woolwich, in consequence of the communications which he received “in favour of the nitrous acid as an *efficacious and certain remedy for the Venereal Disease,*” caused “a full and complete trial of it” to be made at the Woolwich hospital: the result of which, he thinks, is that the new plan of treatment will probably “*turn out MORE GENERALLY SUCCESSFUL and less injurious than mercury in the cure of the Lues Venerea.*”

He says, “Of these new remedies, the oxygenated

(l) All the materials contained in this section were collected from the first edition of Dr. Rollo’s publication on the Diabetes Mellitus.

muriate of potash will no doubt be preferred. It has been found of superior efficacy in the Lues in its primary, and from some trials *we have no doubt of its being equally so in its secondary state.* We have seen that it not only speedily removes the disease, but that the general health, instead of being impaired by it, seems to be invigorated. The venereal sores have healed under the action of these remedies, on the system, gradually and firmly, the changes being daily conspicuous."

The foregoing observations are taken from the *preface* to his work, dated at Woolwich Royal Artillery Hospital, July 14th, 1797; at which time the author affirms, that "no relapse of the disease had been discovered, though several of the patients have been cured upwards of two, and some almost three months."

IV. Toward the conclusion of Dr. Rollo's publication, are contained "the results of the trials of various acids and some other substances in the treatment of the Lues Venerea," by WILLIAM CRUICKSHANK, one of the Surgeons at the Woolwich Hospital, and Lecturer on Chemistry to the Royal Military Academy (*m*). Mr. Cruickshank and his colleagues, "with a view to satisfy themselves of the antisyphilitic property of the nitrous acid, and at the same time to discover how far this might be owing to its oxygene," instituted experiments with different substances containing much of that principle, and which part with it readily. He promises to extend his researches at a future opportunity. The cases selected for the above purpose "were primary affections, strongly and distinctly marked, where no mer-

(*m*) This gentleman has been mistaken, by Dr. Swediaur and some others, for the late Mr. Craikshank in London, Teacher of Anatomy.

curial remedies had been employed." He says, " it was judged proper, in their first trials, to confine themselves to cases of primary affections ; *these being always less equivocal and doubtful:*" but he likewise suggests, that it is intended " to employ the same substances in more advanced states of the disease, *particularly where mercury has either failed or had little effect.*"

He recites four cases of recent symptoms, treated successfully with the " concentrated nitrous acid diluted with water :" these symptoms were chancres, gonorrhœa, and phymosis, which got well speedily, by the administration of from half a drachm to three drachms of the acid, daily.

Four cases are also given of the successful exhibition of " oxygenated muriatic acid ;" two of which were enlarged inguinal glands. From fifteen to two hundred and forty drops a day were administered to each of these patients.

He relates three instances of a similar kind, cured by " lemon-juice or the citric acid," in the quantity of three or four ounces daily : likewise six other cases, expeditiously cured by " the oxygenated muriate of potash," given to each patient in the quantity of from twelve to forty grains, and in one instance to fifty-six grains, every day.

The diet allowed in these cases was milk, animal food, vegetables, and table beer. The common applications used to the parts affected were simple ointments, emollient cataplasms, cold solutions of acetite of lead, and electricity : a few ounces of blood were also taken from some of the patients ; and when the symptoms indicated it, Peruvian bark, opium, and laxative medicines were exhibited.

Mr. Cruickshank observes on the foregoing cases, " that the nitrous, citric, oxygenated muriatic acids, and more particularly the oxygenated muriate

of potash, are capable of removing the primary symptoms of the Lues Venerea, *without producing any thing like mercurial salivation*: the only doubt therefore which can reasonably remain, must relate to *secondary* ones; but if in a few instances even these should make their appearance at some future period, it can form no solid objection to this mode of treatment, as similar consequences frequently follow the use of mercury."

The sensible effects produced by the acids were, "an increase of appetite, an augmentation in the quantity of urine, more or less thirst, white tongue, and an increased action of the whole system, most generally accompanied with sity blood.

"The oxygenated muriatic acid appeared to be the most active, and the citric acid the least so. The oxygenated muriate of potash produced thirst, the white tongue, and the increased action of the system in a more remarkable degree than the acids; but there was less alteration in the quantity of urine and the appetite." Mr. Cruickshank, from several considerations, infers "that the general or constitutional effects of these remedies must be ascribed to the disengagement of their oxygene." He conceives that these general affections of the system suspend the local consequences of the venereal poison; and, like mercury, "cure this disease by exciting a new action, in consequence of which the syphilitic one is suspended: this suspension being continued for a sufficient length of time, the whole of the virus, from the change which the fluids naturally undergo, is at last expelled from the body." He says, these medicines "are not accompanied with any disagreeable consequences during their operation, and THEY SEEM IN GENERAL TO PRODUCE THEIR EFFECTS MORE QUICKLY AND CERTAINLY" than mercury. But, what is of great importance, "they do not appear

to excite the action of other diseases, especially of scrofula. Of the different substances we have yet employed" (says he) "we prefer the nitrous acid and the oxygenated muriate of potash ; the first, because it may be readily procured, and seems in most cases sufficiently active, and the last, on account of its *being by far the most efficacious and certain* ; producing in most instances an almost immediate effect upon the disease, without injuring the constitution. The nitrous acid we have used has never been perfectly pure, nor highly concentrated ; in short, it was nothing more than the *common fuming acid of the shops*. The nitric acid has not been tried, nor do we conceive that it would possess any superior advantages. This medicine generally produces a sensible effect in six or eight days, and frequently accomplishes a cure in fifteen or sixteen." In one very recent case, the potash succeeded where the nitrous acid had little or no effect, although given for some time to the quantity of three drachms daily.

The cases and observations of Mr. Cruickshank having been particularly insisted on, both in Great Britain and upon the Continent, I have hereafter endeavoured to appreciate their comparative merit. I next pass on to "Some additional Facts, in Testimony of the Efficacy of the nitrous Acid in the Lues Venerea, communicated by several Surgeons of the Artillery to Dr. Rollo."

V. DR. IRWIN stands first. He gives us two cases ; one of which was a phymosis and exudation from the glans penis ; the other was a large indurated tumour in the groin : both of them were cured by the nitrous acid, exhibited as above mentioned.

VI. DR. JAMESON relates five cures, of slight venereal affections, by the same remedy : he also speaks of two other patients who were then under his care ; but they could not be treated in this manner, on account

count of the acid having (even in the quantity of half a drachm daily) produced a sensation "like scalding water in their stomach immediately after taking it." He entertains no doubt that on many occasions these medicines may *supersede mercury*.

VII. DR. WITTMAN cured eight patients, with primary venereal symptoms, by the same means, and attended two "*with secondary symptoms*." To one of them he gave the nitrous acid. "This patient" (he tells us) "had venereal eruptions on the skin, painful enlargements of the lower jaw and nose, an ulceration of the Schneiderian membrane, severe head-achs, a dreadful extensive ulceration in the throat, with sloughing of the tonsils, uvula, &c. He took three drams of the acid for three weeks, during which time the eruptions disappeared, the pain and enlargement of the jaw, and nose were nearly gone; but unfortunately, from the great sloughing in the throat, we were prevented from getting down any liquid whatever, and in attempting to swallow the acid, though much diluted, it was forced back through the nostrils, and produced much distress to the patient: thus situated, we were obliged to abandon any further trial, and to have immediate recourse to mercurial frictions, which completed the cure."

The second patient had nodous-like tumors upon the forehead, preceded by severe head-achs, and a painful enlargement on the head of the tibia. One of the tumors has been relieved, by taking the oxygenated muriate of potash. He had arrived at the dose of seven grains, three times a day; but was still under cure. Dr. W. wrote on the 12th of June 1797; he then affirms, "Since the 13th of March 1797, I have not admitted into the hospital a patient, with symptoms of the venereal disease (except the last mentioned), to whom I have prescribed any

other medicine but the nitrous acid, nor administered it in vain." His remarks on the general effects of the acid agree with those of Mr. Cruickshank, and he did not see that any thing like ptyalism was produced, as mentioned by Mr. Scott.

SECTION the Third.—*The Testimonies of Monsieur Alyon and Dr. Swediaur at Paris.*

I. THE reports communicated from the East Indies (in Mr. Scott's first letter) appear to have attracted the attention of medical practitioners in Paris, about the same time that experiments were instituted with the nitrie acid in England. Dr. Swediaur, in his "Traité complet sur des Maladies Syphilitiques," vol. ii. ch. 10, recites part of a memoir by CITIZEN ALYON, on the antivenereal and antipsoric properties of oxygen, which was read at the Society of Medicine, "7 Messidor An 5." i. e. June 25th, 1797.

I have given a full analysis of M. Alyon's subsequent Essay, in Part II. pp. 223—248 of this work; to which I must therefore refer the reader.

That gentleman adopts the theory of Dr. Girtanner and Mr. Scott respecting the operation of oxygen in curing the Venereal Disease, and "denies that mercury, as a metal, is an antivenereal remedy, or that it has any effect upon the constitution when swallowed to the quantity of many pounds;" but this metal, being very oxydable and disoxydable, is, therefore, he "thinks, a fit substance for the cure of Lues Venerea; for "to discover a powerful antivenereal, we need only take a substance containing much oxygen, and which readily parts with it to animal matter."

We are informed that Citizen Alyon "has obtained many combinations of oxygen, which he employs as antisyphilitics with the greatest success, *avec le plus grand succès.*" Some of these preparations

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are mentioned ; for instance, “ an ointment of oxygen, superior to the grey mercurial ointment, and with which he has produced the same effects.” The composition of this ointment is described in the *Second Part*, pp. 224, 225, of the present Essay.

He says, “ he has employed the superoxygenated muriate of potash EXTERNALLY, to cicatrize chancres and syphilitic ulcers ; and that the effects of it have been much more speedy and certain than those of mercurial substances formerly employed, BEAUCOUP plus prompts et plus assurés que ceux des substances mercurielles employées jusqu'à ce jour.”

M. Alyon is said to have “ repeated many experiments in the military hospital of Saint Denis, confirming the facts which he alledges. By increasing the dose of his *pomade oxigénée*, and by the internal use of water oxygenated with the nitric acid, he produced salivation, glandular swellings, and a diarrhoea, like what are occasioned by urging mercurial frictions too far.” Two cases are given to prove the opinion already insisted on, “ que l’oxigène agit beaucoup plus promptement et beaucoup plus efficacement que les préparations de mercure.” I do not believe, however, that either of these cases was venereal.

“ A patient, thirty-eight years of age, had herpetic or tettery ulcers on both his hands, his legs, and one of his cheeks. He used the bath three days. Citizen Alyon made him rub the ulcerated parts with half a drachin of the oxygenated pomatum two or three times, which cicatrized them in the space of eleven days, without producing any of those effects from metastasis which commonly follow the use of the anti-herpetic topics hitherto employed.”

The second case referred to, in support of M. Alyon’s assertion, is that of “ a soldier who had an ulcer an inch in extent upon one of the posterior columns of the palate ; against which he had used

many remedies at Beauvais, and had taken to no good purpose Van Swieten's Liquor (*n*) during forty days. He touched it three times a day with a solution of the superoxygenated muriate of potash, and in seven days the ulcer was completely healed."

II. DR. SWEDIAUR, whose name has been long known in the medical world, seems to have been acquainted with the experiments made at Woolwich hospital: but I do not think him sufficiently correct in his account of the successful use of nitrous acid, in cases of a *confirmed Lues Venerea*. Other inaccuracies might be pointed out in his work: I shall pass them by, as not being of much importance in connexion with the subject now under discussion. He inadvertently says, that Dr. Rollo has added to the supplement of his work on Diabetes, the experience of several surgeons of the artillery, which proves the nitrous acid to be *EQUALLY efficacious in different cases of a secondary infection*, "également efficace dans différent cas d'une infection secondaire." This representation is calculated to mislead those who have not read Dr. Rollo's second volume, in which the cases alluded to, and the inferences drawn from them, are contained: for, no such *proofs* are therein offered to the world, nor had the surgeons of the artillery given this medicine a fair trial in that stage of the disease. One of Dr. Wittman's patients is *the only instance* of any advantage having been derived from the acid in secondary symptoms; but the cure,

(*n*) If we consult Mr. Wiseman's Surgery, vol. ii. b. viii. c. 2. the *corrosive sullimate* (*Hydraegyrus Muriatus*) will appear to have been an old remedy in Syphilis, although Baron Van Swieten revived it and brought it into vogue. Dr. Clerc, author of the Hist. Nat. de l'Homme Malade, says, that the solution of this medicine, commonly attributed to Van Swieten, has been used in Siberia, time out of mind: and, if my memory does not deceive me, it was also employed by one of the early writers on this disease, I think *John de Vigo*.

even in this case, was effected by mercury. None of the other practitioners at Woolwich had administered the acid in a *confirmed Syphilis*; and Mr. Cruickshank expressly mentions *why* they had not.

Dr. Swediaur adopts the same theory of the operation of mercury as M. Alyon, and advances several reasons in support of the opinion that this mineral acts upon the venereal poison "only by virtue of the oxygen contained in its various compositions," and that the former serves merely as a vehicle of the latter. Consonant with this idea, he flatters himself and his readers with the hope of removing all venereal affections by means of oxygen without mercury; so that, in perusing his late Treatise, we shall only have occasion "TO SUBSTITUTE THE WORD OXYGEN FOR THAT OF MERCURY!"

The Doctor is of opinion with Mr. Cruickshank, that the event of secondary affections ensuing in patients who have been cured of the primary symptoms of Lues Venerea "forms no solid objection against the new plan of treatment, because we sometimes see the same consequences after a mercurial course, especially when it has been administered without due care and attention." He "used the oxygenated lard in two cases of primary syphilitic ulcers" on the glans and præputium: he also applied the super-oxygenated muriate of potash "in a third case." These were recent affections, and healed soon, without any other remedy, either internal or external. "In all the other cases of Blennorrhagias or of primitive syphilitic ulcers (says he), wherein I employed the oxygen externally, it appeared in general to render the matter thicker, less acrid, not so irritating, and more white, and it evidently accelerated the cure of these complaints. I desired all my patients to be on their guard, and immediately to prize

prize me of any affections, whether local or general, which might have appeared on their bodies.

" I have given the nitric acid internally to *many patients with a general syphilitic infection*: the symptoms disappeared, even in one case where mercury had been previously employed without success: in all of them, the remedy increased the appetite: two or three experienced a little affection of the salivary glands: in one, small aphthous ulcers appeared in the mouth: two patients complained of the colic during some days, but all these symptoms vanished of themselves. The nitric acid was used in the above cases *pur à trente degrés*; and in no instance did I give more than one hundred and twenty, or one hundred and thirty, grains a day."

Thus far Dr. Swediaur. He also observes that Dr. Fourcroy found rancid (or oxygenated) lard to kill mercury much more readily than the fresh.

Since the Second Part of this Essay was published, I have received from Paris some books, which shew how far Dr. Swediaur and M. Alyon retain their former good opinion of the new antiveneral remedies. The reader will find in my PREFACE a general account of the sentiments at present entertained on this subject, by various practitioners in different quarters of the world.

SECTION the Fourth.—*The Attestations of Dr. Beddoes, Mr. Baynton, Mr. Sandford, and Dr. Rutherford.*

I. Not many days after the receipt of Mr. Scott's paper on the nitric acid, Dr. BEDDOES was consulted on a singularly obstinate case of supposed Lues Venerea (o), " the first in which the nitric acid was

(o) See Considerations on Factitious Airs, Part v. Appendix v. and page 81, &c. of " Reports concerning the Effects of nitrous Acid in the Venereal Disease, published by Thomas Beddoes, M. D. 1797."

tried

tried in Europe." During a period of about ten months, before the Doctor saw him, this patient had a succession of symptoms which induced an experienced practitioner to direct the mercurial pill and ointment: several other remedies were likewise used, viz. cicuta, Peruvian bark, sarsaparilla, and opium, before the exhibition of the acid. After six weeks trial, the nitric acid appeared to be ineffectual, and some of the symptoms were aggravated. It was therefore omitted entirely, and six quarts of Velno's Vegetable Syrup were given, but without the smallest sensible effect. "He then relinquished medicines altogether. About this time he daily discharged a purulent slough from his nose, which, as his feelings shewed, came from the posterior nares. No ulceration was visible in the throat."

"In the spring (1797), exostoses arose on the cranium. I concluded from former observations (says Dr. Beddoes) that the medicines he had before used in such immense quantity would cure him. I am this day (Sept. 4th) informed that *he re-commenced the free use of mercurial unction and nitrous acid.* During this course his strength improved, and in three weeks the nodes began to diminish, and in a month more disappeared. During this process *he rubbed in a pound of mercurial ointment and took six ounces of concentrated acid.* Not the least tendency to salivation appeared, nor any uncomfortable symptoms. His health daily improved; but he still every day blew the scab or slough out of his nostrils. The mercurial pill was now given. The amendment went on rapidly, till, within this fortnight, upon taking a slight cold, *he was attacked with venereal ulceration of the throat.* He has again returned to the nitrous acid and mercurial ointment, which he is to continue as long as he has any vestige of the disease behind the nose."

In Dr. Beddoes' second "Collection of Testimonies," p. 239, he gives the subsequent history of the above disease, from which we learn, that the patient persisted in the use of mercury and the acid till the symptoms were all alleviated; but they afterwards re-appeared, and finally were removed "*by the use of mercury only,*" so as to afford "the first comfortable assurance of his perfect cure."

This case and the next I shall recite, being in some respects singular, were judged worthy a more minute detail than common.

The account of Mr. H. as it is recorded by Dr. Beddoes, Mr. Baynton, and the patient himself, occupies more than nine pages. (Consid. on Airs, and Reports on Nitrous Acid.) I must reduce it to a narrower compass. Mr. H. was attacked, in the beginning of the year 1795, with ulcers in his throat and tonsils, violent nocturnal pains in his shins, and soon afterwards with nodous excrescences from his knees almost down to his insteps. His arms also became painful, and swellings of a considerable size made their appearance. Next, his knees tumefied, and became stiff with extreme pain. Then all his limbs contracted, and every joint of his fingers enlarged. His nose and cranium shared equally in the general torment, and his whole body was at length reduced to a motionless skeleton.

This gentleman contracted the venereal disease some years before Mr. Baynton first visited him, and supposed himself perfectly cured: he had since that time married, and become the father of healthy fine children. During nearly a space of two years, Mr. B. tried, without success, "the whole of the known remedies that the art afforded, and mercury in almost every mode of exhibition." The nitric acid was then given, by Mr. Baynton's and Dr. Beddoes' desire, according to Mr. Scott's method. On the 25th of November 1796, Mr. B. writes that "he

was.

was indeed a rueful spectacle, with little more than diseased bones remaining, when he began the use of the nitric acid, and that he *now appears in good health*. I contemplate with astonishment the change that has been produced ; more especially, as he was labouring under profuse sweats, diarrhoea, or ptyalism, from the mercurials that were exhibited, though they were so guarded, and has *now obtained a cure* by the use of a most powerful acid, without experiencing even momentary inconvenience, and in less time than would have been requisite to remove even the mildest symptoms of the disease by any other known method."

November the 29th, Dr. Beddoes informs us, that "his daily dose of strong colourless nitric acid was two drams, diluted by a quart of water. On the seventh day he perceived a flow of saliva ; on the eighth the salivation amounted to a quart, and it has continued in a greater or less degree ever since. There was no soreness of the mouth, nor any of the feelings which had formerly been produced by mercury. In two or three days after this effect on the salivary glands, he lost his pains : on being lifted out of bed, he was astonished to find he could stand without support ; *whereas*, says he, putting his hands on his knees, *these limbs could not before have sustained a single ounce*. Three weeks after the exhibition of the acid, the tibiæ were rough, but without excrescence ; all the nodes disappeared. Mr. H.'s nose, which had been considerably enlarged, was now of the natural size : his hands, which had been a mis-shapen mass, had no preternatural appearances. Before, he could not bend any of his fingers ; now he could bend them all, but the fore finger of the right hand. A great difficulty of deglutition had disappeared at the commencement of the salivation. His general bodily condition had been much ameliorated, and his appetite had become so keen, that

that he could hardly find time enough in the day to eat and to take his diluted acid."

Although the above statement respecting Mr. H. affords ground to hope that considerable utility may be derived from the acid, under certain circumstances ; the following letter, which he sent to Dr. Beddoes after a lapse of nine months, excited a suspicion that the benefit he received did not amount to a destruction of the venereal virus :

" SIR,

" I have the pleasure to inform you, that I have been totally free from pain since I was so happily freed by the use of the nitrous acid ; but the stiffness still remains in the middle joint of the fore finger of my right hand ; and I have also a *breaking-out all over my body*, which is attended with a violent itching that breaks my rest. I am now about to enter upon another course of the acid, and have great hopes it will remove this disagreeable complaint also.

" I am, &c. R. H.

" *Bristol, Aug. 30, 1797.*"

From the issue of this fallacious case (*p*), added to Mr. Scott's evidence, Mr. Baynton and Dr. Beddoes seem disposed to conclude that the *nitric acid* is a specific in general affections. " Why," says Mr. B. " should it be so difficult to believe the existence of other *specifics*, for the poison in Europe, when it is recollectcd that the South Sea islanders and some tribes of the native Americans have found, in the vegetable productions of their countries, remedies

(*p*) We learn from Dr. Beddoes, in a subsequent work, that this gentleman at length had " ulcerated throat, thickening of the left ala nasi, copper-coloured spots, and occasional pains in his bones. Afterwards he gradually declined, and not being able to bear nitrous acid, died in London." Communications respecting Nitrous Acid, 1800, Prelim. Discourse, p. xvii.

for the *worst* (*q*) states of the disease?" Dr. Beddoes remarks, "that the discovery of every new specific (or substance capable of correcting given morbid actions of the system) affords a new reason for believing in the existence of others: for some scrofulous ulcers, we seem to have found a new SPECIFIC in sorrel; *for venereal and hepatic affections in nitric acid, such as we possessed before in mercury.*" He adds, that he has before him, November the 29th, 1796, a letter from an accurate medical observer, in which he says, that "He has used nitric acid with great advantage in some cases which he believed to be hepatic, *and in one venereal case with apparent advantage.*"

At p. 83 of Dr. Beddoes' Reports, after having summed up the evidence for the new plan of treatment, he concludes; that "*there is therefore already in favour of the nitrous acid, a far greater fulness and variety of testimony (r), than has ever been produced*

(*q*) Have these pretensions been as clearly verified as they have been positively maintained? In my opinion, the evidence is very deficient; and I am not yet convinced that "*the worst states of the disease*" have ever been radically cured by vegetable productions alone. In Dr. Beddoes' Communications 1800, he tells us, "it is more probable that there are twenty antivenereal remedies, *in general*, as good as mercury, and of course, *in particular cases* better, than that there are none," p. xv. See likewise an interesting account of "*American antisyphilitic Vegetables*" in the Appendix, No. I. to Dr. Beddoes' "*New Reports,*" 1799.

De Velno's *Vegetable Syrup* has been often commended by regular practitioners for the cure of Syphilis. I have not, however, been able to find out its virtues in such cases, after a fair trial.

~ (*r*) In this supposition, however, he is undoubtedly mistaken: for, by his own reckoning, at the period of his writing, there were not much "*above an hundred cases attested as cured*" by the acid; whereas it has been affirmed by a certain author, that at one time *three thousand patients were cured of Syphilis by the decoction of guaiacum alone!* This author is NICHOLAS POLL: his words

produced in favour of any of those other substances that have at various times been proposed as substitutes for mercury: from the whole it clearly results, that where the constitution is broken, the habit feeble or scrofulous, the cure should always be attempted by the nitrous acid in preference to any other medicine."

II. MR. BAYNTON, whose evidence in one case has already been adduced, gives us an account of two others "who were cured of the last stage of the venereal disease, after a failure of carefully conducted mercurial courses." As the number of instances of supposed cures on record, in the *last stage* of Syphilis, are very few, I shall take the liberty of copying these two at full length.

Letter to Dr. BEDDOES.

" DEAR SIR,

" In compliance with the request of your yesterday's favour, I herewith send you an account of two *venereal* patients, who were cured of the last stage of *that* disease, after a failure of carefully conducted mercurial courses. On the 6th of January 1795, a man named ———, about 20 years of age, applied to me for the cure of the venereal ulcerations, and eruptions upon his arms, breast, and forehead. He said, that about ten months before, he had contracted a venereal complaint, of which the first symptoms were chancres, and buboes that suppurred; that he had applied to an itinerant practitioner for relief, and by his assistance was freed from those complaints; but that inconveniences of a more distressing kind were soon observed to succeed their removal; that his throat became obstinately sore, and that ulcerations and blotches soon followed.

words are, " Uno quasi & eodem tempore usu decocti ex Guaiaco tria hominum millia, de quibus desperatum erat, ad bonam valitudinem reducta fuisse, qui post convalescentiam sibi ipsi renasci videbantur."

I ordered

I ordered him to take half a grain of the muriated quicksilver, with an equal quantity of opium, morning and evening, and to drink with it half a pint of a decoction prepared with the usual quantities of guaiacum, sassafras, mezerion, and liquorice. These medicines were persevered in till the middle of May; and continued some weeks after the removal of the symptoms for which they were exhibited.

" I did not see him from that time till the 25th of August: he then applied for the relief of a train of symptoms that nearly resembled rheumatism. He had much pain in the larger joints, with an accelerated pulse, and a regular increase of pain and fever every evening. He had been employed in the open air some time before this application, and had, as he said, been sometimes improperly exposed. I therefore did not hesitate to consider the complaint as rheumatic, and to treat it accordingly. The saline and other medicines, with antimonials, liniments, &c. were tried till the end of September without any advantage. It was not till the beginning of January 1797, that any thing could be observed, which rendered it probable that his complaints were occasioned by venereal poison. About that time nodes began to appear upon his shins, and gradually increased till the 20th, when he was directed to take two drachms of the strong nitrous acid, or aqua fortis, diluted with two pints of water, every day, in any way he could with the least inconvenience. In less than three weeks his pains began to abate, and his health, which was much impaired, to return. The medicine was continued till the 25th of April, when the pain and stiffness of the large joints, which before that time was so considerable as to render it probable that the disease would end in incurable lameness, *together with the excrescences upon the tibiae*, and all his other inconvenient symptoms, except weakness, were perfectly removed.

" A constant discharge of saliva, equal in quantity to what would have been secreted under a mild mercurial course, attended the administration of the acid in this case, but without any soreness of the mouth, or disagreeable smell."

" WILLIAM GREENSLADE, aged 21, a private in the artillery, contracted a venereal complaint about the beginning of March 1796. He had a chancre, and a bubo which suppurated, and took mercurials by the direction of his acquaintance and fellow-soldiers, till the first of April; when he became a patient in the Royal Hospital at Woolwich, and continued there a month, during which time his mouth was kept in a constant state of soreness by the use of mercury. On the first of May he was discharged, apparently cured; but in three months after, his throat became sore, and continued so till May 1797; he then began to feel nocturnal pains in the breast, and frontal bones, and to perceive nodes upon the shins, together with a swelling upon the ulna, near the wrist of the right hand. On the 8th of June, I was requested, by Serjeant Evans of the same corps, to render him assistance. His pain had then so much reduced him, and the joints of his knees were so much enlarged, that he could not turn in his bed without difficulty. A drachm of mercurial ointment was directed to be rubbed into his thighs every night, and a decoction of guaiacum, sassafras, &c. to be taken as usually directed. On the 11th, his pains were so great as to require the assistance of opiates, which, with the frictions and decoction, were continued till the 21st of July, a period of six weeks, without in any degree abating his pain or swellings. His health was then much impaired, his appetite gone, his pulse quick and small, and his general appearance hectic. On that day two drachms of the nitrous acid, diluted with two pints of water, were sent him, and he was directed to take as much of it as he could

could in the day. The first day he drank the whole quantity, but was so much gripe by it, that he could not afterwards be prevailed upon to take more than a pint, or a pint and a half, in the 24 hours. In less than ten days his pains began to abate, and his health to mend. His recovery has been so rapidly advancing since, that I yesterday found, when I called to see him, that he had walked out to take the air, and that except the swelling upon his right arm, and some stiffness of the knee joints, he was free from every symptom of disease. In this case, no ptyalism, or soreness of the gums, were occasioned by the medicine.

“ I am, dear Sir,

“ Your sincere servant,

“ THO. BAYNTON.

“ Bristol, Aug. 22.”

III. MR. SANDFORD of Worcester, another of Dr. Beddoes' correspondents, has given the outlines of five cases in which he tried the acid with advantage. They were selected, he says, “ from among the numerous trials that he made, *as most conclusive of its effects:*” but the first and two last only were believed to be venereal, and are therefore the only cases to illustrate our present subject.

The symptoms of the first patient were “ two very small orifices on the nates, near the perinæum, which had been called *Fistulas in Ano.*” He took from one to two drachms of the nitric acid daily, mixed in a quart of water, and the fistulous orifices were dressed with mercurial ointment. After a while, “ the mercurial dressing was laid aside, and he was directed to use a fomentation of vinegar and water to the parts twice a day, and to keep soft cloth wet with this liquid constantly applied to them. In a short time the discharge ceased entirely, the orifices healed, the cal-

losity disappeared, and the man found himself perfectly well." I do not, however, suppose that any person, beside Mr. Sandford and the patient, will call this case "A SYPHILITIC AFFECTION."

"J. B. aged 23, had undergone a regular course of mercury by friction and the mouth, till a strong salivation was excited, with the hopes of curing some obstinate venereal ulcers on his shins, and one or two ill-conditioned and spreading chancres on the penis. He afterwards took bark, opium, steel, and sarsaparilla, for some months, without any manifest advantage. February 20, he began to take the nitric acid; and on the 8th of April following, was dismissed perfectly cured." I see no reason (after a regular course of mercury and a strong salivation) to suspect that these sore legs, &c. were prevented from healing by the presence of the syphilitic poison, and therefore do not regard even this case as well adapted to prove the *antivenereal* properties of the acid.

The last of Mr. Sandford's cures was "an ulcer near the right condyle of the lower jaw; a small portion of the interior part of the jaw was laid bare, was becoming carious, and the discharge highly offensive." A carbon poultice was applied to the ulcer till it put on a clean appearance: "during *this time* (Mr. S. observes) the man confessed to a professional gentleman of my acquaintance, that he at *that time* was affected with venereal complaints. The *next time* I examined him, he informed me that he had *lately* had a slight hernia humeralis and other symptoms" (but what symptoms were they?) "of venereal infection. The charcoal application was now laid aside, and the wound dressed with mercurial ointment; at the same time he was ordered to take the nitric acid internally, two drachms in 24 hours. This medicine he began to take July 18th; and this day, August 19th, was dismissed cured, the ulcer

ulcer in the jaw being completely healed, and no symptom remaining of VENEREAL INFECTION."

Although Dr. Beddoes has judged these histories deserving a place in his valuable collection of facts, I hope he does not include them among the " HUNDRED BAD CASES ATTESTED AS CURED BEYOND ALL REASONABLE DOUBT (s)." They certainly are not decisive, as venereal cases.

One of the patients to whom Mr. Sandford gave the nitric acid, found it disagree with him, even in a small dose: he had heartburn, colic, flatulency, &c. with soreness of his gums and a slight salivation. The acid which this gentleman " made use of in all the cases here mentioned, was the nitric acid deprived of its phlogiston (as it is called) by simple boiling in an open retort, till the red fumes ceased."

IV. DR. RUTHERFORD, one of the medical professors in the university of Edinburgh, communicated the result of his experience on this subject, August 24, 1797, in a letter to Dr. Beddoes.

Dr. R. " made many trials of the nitric acid in Lues, chiefly on patients in the Royal Infirmary, and with various success." In some instances the medicine failed him altogether; but even in these, it produced no bad effects on the constitution. " In other instances," he observes, " the beneficial effects of it were most conspicuous, absolutely surprising, and far greater than I remember to have ever seen produced, in the same space of time, by any preparation of mercury. Such salutary effects were remarked principally in the more *advanced stages of the disease*, when some of its most distressing symptoms were present, particularly severe pains in the

(s) See Dr. Beddoes' circular letter to medical gentlemen, dated Sept. 5, 1797.

bones, swellings in the periosteum fici, &c. I have seen all these pass away most rapidly under the use of the acid." " I have lately seen an instance or two where the disease was so inveterate, and the constitution so broken, that neither the acid nor mercury were adequate to check the progress of the disease; as trial had been made of both in succession, but without any conspicuous advantage: in these, therefore, the acid had been used at the same time with mercury, and the two together have produced a most favourable change in almost every symptom."

" What the particular circumstances are, which occasion such difference of result in different examples, I confess I have not been able to ascertain. I am happy, however, to think that these will probably soon be ascertained, by some of the many ingenious observers, who, I learn, are now occupied with the subject. Most fortunate will it be for mankind, if a *certain substitute* be found for mercury, in the cure of Lues, as well as other diseases. And such, I would hope, may soon be found in some of the acids, or their compounds. For though I cannot say that my own trials of the nitrous acid in Lues have been uniformly so successful as I might have expected from some printed accounts of its efficacy, which I have had access to peruse, yet they sufficiently prove, that in certain states of the disease, and in certain constitutions, *it is a remedy of very great value.*"

The unfavourable side of Dr. Rutherford's report, with that of several other gentlemen, will be stated in the next chapter of this Essay. I now proceed to the main body of evidence in Dr. Beddoes' first collection of facts, by the surgeons of the Royal Hospital at Plymouth.

SECTION the Fifth.—*Successful Cases related by Dr. Geach and Mr. Hammick junior, at Plymouth Hospital.*

THE public are, in my opinion, greatly indebted to those practitioners who avail themselves of the opportunities afforded by hospitals, and other similar institutions, of ascertaining the merits of new remedies from time to time: for, without such laudable endeavours, by those who have extensive means in their hands, the progressive improvement of the healing art, in all its branches, must be very slow and encumbered. Honourable mention ought therefore to be made of the pains which several hospital-surgeons and others have taken, to appreciate the antivenereal properties of nitrous acid; although, I am sorry there is so much cause given to acknowledge, that their experiments have not generally been made on the most *unexceptionable* subjects.

By a letter, bearing date the 22d of July 1797, it appears that the nitrous acid had been given “to more than fifty” venereal patients in the royal hospital at Plymouth; and Mr. Hammick tells us “*his success had FULLY answered the character which has been given of this newly discovered remedy (t).*”

Judging from his own experience, Mr. H. thinks “little doubt can be entertained but that the nitric acid will, in a great measure, supersede the use of mercury in the venereal disease.” He says “it effects a cure, for the most part, in a short time, without

(t) In reading this attestation, we are led immediately to the recollection of Mr. H. Scott’s first report, which alleges, that Syphilis had been cured by the acid “under all its forms, and in every stage of its continuance;” but, it is somewhat remarkable, that no instance (or only one) of a *confirmed* *Lues Venerea* is recited, either by Mr. Hammick or Dr. Geach; although they selected the **WORST** venereal cases that were brought into the hospital.

impairing the appetite, without requiring any particular regimen or strict confinement, leaving none of those ill consequences or depredations that often follow the liberal use of mercury ; and, as yet, he has seen no instances of the disorder re-appearing after the use of this medicine."

Notwithstanding the number of patients in which the acid had then been tried, " amounted to more than *fifty*," we are favoured with the recital of only *twelve* cases : of these I shall give an analysis in few words, with some observations of Dr. Geach and Mr. Hammick upon them.

The symptoms under which these patients laboured (except the eighth) were what have been usually called *primary* affections ; viz. chancres, buboes, gonorrhœa, dysuria, excoriations, gangrenous sores, phymosis, paraphymosis, and chordee. Seven of them had not used mercury before they began the acid ; and, the other five had either got worse during the use of mercury, or received no benefit. All of them were apparently cured by the nitrous acid, occasionally aided by tonic medicines and simple external applications. The eighth case is the only one which can be denominated a confirmed Syphilis ; and even that is rather doubtful, as no symptom was present beside a painful node : but the whole narration ought to be submitted to the reader, that he may judge for himself.

" WILLIAM SMITH, a marine, twenty-two years of age, was received into this hospital on the 26th day of May, for a venereal complaint ; an extremely large and painful node was discovered on the right tibia, which he said he had perceived coming on nearly four months : he had suffered excruciating pains in that part and in his limbs at night, which became much easier as the morning advanced ; he contracted this disease *four years since*, but thought

himself perfectly cured : but had pains in his limbs ever since the commencement of the disease, at times ; but not so violent as to prevent him from doing his duty, till a month since. He was much emaciated, and low spirited, from the constant pain he suffered. He was ordered the following drink :

“ R. Acidi nitrosi drachmam iiij

Syrupi simplicis uncias vi

Aquaæ fontanæ libras ij

M. bibat quotidie.

“ At the expiration of nine days, he said he had rested better than for five months past : on the 16th day of taking the nitric medicine, his pains had entirely left him, and his node seemed diminished ; his appetite returning, and in much better spirits. He continued his drink to the 14th day of July, when his pains and swelling on the tibia were gone, his appetite and spirits good, and his health restored. He was discharged on that day, to go on duty, returning many thanks for his cure.”

If this be a legitimate instance of confirmed Syphilis, was the cure permanent ? Relapses have often happened after an *apparent* destruction of the Lues Venerea ; and I shall recite some such cases in the sequel of this work. The prescription here copied for Wm. Smith, may serve as a specimen of Mr. H.’s mode of preparing and exhibiting the nitrous medicine. In all the cases recorded, except the first, each patient took six or eight ounces of simple syrup with every quart of the diluted nitrous acid.

The following letters from Dr. Geach and Mr. Hammick, will explain a variety of particulars which ought to be known, concerning the practice at Plymouth Hospital.

To

To Dr. BEDDOES.

" SIR, Royal Hospital, July 26, 1797.

" I do myself the honour, agreeably to your request, of writing to you, and assuring you that the patients whose cases Mr. Hammick junior lately transmitted, were regularly attended by myself; and every circumstance was remarked as minutely as possible, and is strictly true. So great, indeed, has been the success of this nitric medicine in the venereal disorder, *that many patients, who had been broken down by an antecedent use of mercury, under which the disorder gained ground, recovered their health and strength without the assistance of diet drinks, change of air, the bark, or any other tonic medicine whatever.* We have had but few instances where the stomach and bowels have been affected by it; but the precaution of taking it through a narrow glass tube has prevented the acid from affecting the teeth, and the medicine has been rendered more palatable by mixing simple syrup with it; and this addition, as far as we have hitherto noticed, has been effectual enough to prevent both mawkishness and pain. But, although these circumstances have now and then succeeded the use of the nitrous acid, it does not affect the mouth or produce a ptyalism. It does not impair the appetite, it does not require any dietetic regimen, or confinement. *Indurated buboes have yielded to it without suppurating; phagedenic buboes have healed after unsuccessful trials with mercury: in chancres, however large or sordid, and in excoriations of the scrotum, however fetid and extensive, the cure, by its use, goes on more rapidly than by a mercurial process.* Such chancres and excoriations have been dressed only with simple ointment, that the patients might not be incommoded by the friction of the linen, and that the effect of the medicine might be better ascertained,

certained, when there was no local application. We have not found, after the chancres have been cured by this medicine, that the throat has been affected; a circumstance not unusual, especially when such ulcers have been dressed with any mercurial preparation. *The cases sent by Mr. Hammick were the worst that were received into the hospital.*

“ *That the nitrous acid has succeeded in fifty cases, or more, is certain;*—but it has failed in four or five instances, and failed too, where the cases have been apparently slight. But whether the failure can be imputed to the inadequacy of the medicine, under particular or unobserved circumstances, or to causes not yet explored, I know not: future experience must throw more light on the efficacy of this medicine, which, at present, is only in its dawn. It has removed, in some patients, nocturnal pains. In the gonorrhœa itself it has not been tried, as *very bad cases only have particularly engaged our attention.* In attending to those, we have endeavoured to bring every thing to the test of truth, which ought to be the guide to every man in a profession, which has for its object the restoration of health, and in a disorder which sometimes baffles the skill of the most experienced. Suffer me to own, that when we first made trial of the nitric acid, no great opinion was entertained of its success. Accustomed to give mercury in this disease, a practice sanctioned by great authorities and time, we were inclined to think that no medicine but mercury would cure it. There was no bias, no predilection, therefore, for this new medicine, no attachment to system. But as the nitrous acid was so respectably recommended by yourself, this was a sufficient motive to make trial of it; and nothing but the success that has attended its use, could authorize us to write in this manner to you,

you, who are the best entitled to the earliest communication.

“ *The nitrous acid we have used has been prepared according to the London College.* ”

“ Before I close this letter, it will be doing but bare justice to Mr. Hammick to say, that he has been unwearied in his attention to the cases in question, as indeed he is to every case in which he is professionally engaged, and that his skill and integrity merit all the praise I can bestow.

“ I have the honour to be, Sir, &c. &c.

“ FRA. GEACH.”

“ Royal Hospital, Plymouth, August 14, 1797.

“ SIR,

“ PERMIT me to thank you for your late favour, and to mention, that since I did myself the honour of communicating to you the twelve cases, *we have still continued to give the nitric acid in the same disorder, and with equal success.*

“ This medicine has been supplied by Mr. Fox, a very eminent chemist in Plymouth, and it has also been sent from Apothecaries' Hall; but though thus differently obtained, *the success has been the same;* and therefore time only can shew the reason why, with other practitioners, your correspondents, this medicine has not been successful.

“ It is a great satisfaction to me, that the trials have been made in a public hospital, under the immediate eye of Dr. Geach. The effect has been well known to many within the walls, and also without the walls, of this hospital. And in consequence of the observations made by us, SOME PRIVATE PRACTITIONERS HAVE GIVEN THIS MEDICINE, AND CAN ADDUCE INSTANCES OF ITS GOOD EFFECT.”

“ As my residence is in the hospital, I had an opportunity of receiving and selecting the patients; a short

short history of their cases was inserted in the prescription books; the progress of the several cases was minutely watched, and the effect of the medicine as much as possible ascertained.

"If the patients under the nitric course had not been cured, they would not have been either discharged from the hospital, or received into their ships: removed from our notice, *we cannot as yet know whether their cures have been permanent or not.*

"With great respect, Sir,

"I remain, &c. &c.

"STEPHEN HAMMICK, junr."

In a letter dated August 22d, Mr. Hammick expresses his own and Dr. Geach's satisfaction on account of the coincidence of the observations of Mr. Cruickshank and others, with those made in the Royal Plymouth hospital. He hopes the facts ascertained by distant and unconnected practitioners, will be effectual in recommending the nitrous acid to notice; and adds, "Permit me to mention, that it has been the practice for more than twenty years, with Dr. Geach, to give six or eight ounces of recent lemon-juice, with an equal proportion of simple syrup, daily, to patients worn down with the venereal disease, and particularly in phagedenic buboes, which had spread under a course of mercury; and for the last four years and upwards, since I had the happiness of acting under him in this hospital, I have seen the good effects of the lemon-juice in such cases. Dr. Geach candidly owns, that the utility of lemon-juice was first suggested to him by the late Sir William Fordyce (*v*), who had seen, in long and extensive practice, its good effects. Although the le-

(*v*) I have shewn, in the foregoing chapter, that this is not so new a practice as has been commonly believed.

mon-juice thus succeeded with Sir William Fordyce, and with us in this hospital ; yet the cures have not been so rapid, nor its success equal to that of the nitrous acid."

The successful event of Robert Harris's case, and the peculiar circumstances attending it, induce me to add the following correspondence from Mr. H. and Dr. G. dated the 28th of August 1797.

" ROBERT HARRIS, a seaman, aged twenty-four, fair complexioned, was received into this hospital July 1st, 1797, for a venereal complaint. He says, three weeks after the connexion, he found a swelling in his left groin ; at the expiration of ten days, he applied to the surgeon's mate (the surgeon having been sent on shore during the late mutiny) ; some mercurial pills were ordered, which produced a ptyalism, and a poultice was applied to the part. About a fortnight after, the bubo was opened by incision ; but another soon formed lower down, which was opened in like manner, but both soon spread into one. A new surgeon was appointed to the ship, and the man was sent to the hospital. His bubo was now phagedenic, and, by an accurate admeasurement, was eight inches in circumference. The edges were much inflamed, and the bubo itself was black, foul, spreading, and discharging ichor highly offensive to ourselves, and intolerable to others. He was now weak and emaciated, without appetite, with night sweats, diarrhoea, and a harassing cough. June 1st, 1797, the day he became our patient, he took, *acidi nitrosi dr : ij, syrapi sim : unc : viii, decoct : lignor : lib : ij, m : et libat quotidie.* The bubo was fomented with a strong decoction of *rad : althææ, capit : papaver : et flor : chamœm.* A poultice of yeast and oatmeal was applied cold ; he took an opiate at night, and a spermaceti mixture for his cough. June 4th, The bubo in a spreading state ; the diarrœa

rhœa more profuse ; the nitric drink continued ; a rhubarb bolus, with *confect : opiat* : administered every sixth hour. 9th, Large sloughs thrown off in the poultice ; the ulcer, nevertheless, continued to spread ; flatus in the stomach and intestines ; diarrhœa less ; the bolus with rhubarb and confection taken only twice a day ; two grains of opium given every six hours ; nitric drink continued ; a galbanum mixture for the flatus. 14th, The sloughs cast off ; the ulcer was so wide and deep, that he was enjoined strict confinement to his bed, lest an artery, by exertion, should burst ; the yeast poultice was changed for another made with fresh leaves of cicuta ; his sweats diminished, and diarrhœa increased. 20th, The disease gained ground ; the ulcer extended in circumference and depth. The man was so exhausted that he could not raise himself in bed ; was propped up with pillows, and deemed irrecoverable. The nitric medicine ; fomentation just warm ; cicuta poultice and opiate continued. Anxious to relieve, the occasion pressing, the nitric acid a new medicine, not given by us in a case so deplorable, we administered the bark ; but as every dose was immediately vomited up, the bark was wholly laid aside. 23d, Nitric drink continued : the myrrh mixture administered for the cough ; this he took but one day, the stomach rejecting it. 25th, His situation considered desperate by ourselves, and others of the faculty, not belonging to the hospital, whom curiosity drew hither from reports of the case ; nitric drink, cicuta poultice, and opiate continued ; almond oil mixed with honey, given for the cough. 26th, A gleam of hope ; one of the inguinal glands began to clean, and the bubo ceased to spread. His recovery commenced. The edges of the bubo were accurately measured ; its circumference was *fourteen inches and three quarters* ; under the loose and flabby

flabby edges, a probe, all round, was passed more than an inch ; the lower part of the *musculus iliacus internus*, the upper part of the *pectinalis* and *adductor longus femoris*, were laid bare ; four of the inguinal glands, all bare as well as the muscles, were so loose that we expected their entire separation. Though these appearances were favourable, yet he was very feeble, had still diarrhoea and sweats ; a low pulse, no appetite, and his urine passed from him involuntarily : nitric acid, poultice, and opiate continued. 30th, The ulcer cleaned, his spirits better, cough less ; nitric drink continued. July 7th, The bubo still cleaning ; granulations rising ; appetite returning ; sweats and diarrhoea lessening ; nitric drink continued. July 14th, Bubo quite clean : granulations firmer : the fomentation and poultice discontinued ; a dressing of simple white ointment or lint applied : appearance and health improved ; cough still less, diarrhoea ceased, sweats abated. 24th, The inguinal glands not eminent ; the granulations rising to a level ; his appetite good ; sat up two hours. 30th, Recovers rapidly : the ulcer fills up ; moved about the ward on crutches ; the nitrous acid reduced to one drachm and a half daily. He continued the drink, in this quantity of the acid, to this day, August 28th ; the bubo, though not quite healed, is within the compass of a sixpence ; the cicatrix, as far as it had extended, is firm, and with a healthy appearance, with no tendency at all to spread again. His appetite, strength, and flesh are restored ; his leg and thigh, however, are contracted, and he has sometimes, by night, an involuntary discharge of urine. IT IS A PLEASURE TO REMARK, THAT HE HAS NOT ANY APPEARANCE OF THE DISEASE ANY WHERE, IN ANY FORM WHATEVER. However, it is our intention to keep him under the nitrous course till the cicatrix is completely formed. It may be worth while here

here to notice, that he has taken one hundred and sixty-four drachms of the nitrous acid; and this quantity has not produced the least appearance tending to salivation."

To Dr. BEDDOES.

" SIR,

" THE account of the case of Robert Harris, by Mr. Hammick, junior, accompanies this letter. Mr. Hammick has already stated, that the patient has taken one hundred and sixty-four drachms of the nitrous acid; that this quantity has not, in any degree, excited salivation, nor impaired the habit(x). Although he had a diarrhoea, he continued it, and the sweats were restrained under its use. The opiates, though so largely administered, were given more with a view of alleviating pain, than to arrest the sphacelus in its progress. Opiates uncombined have often been given in such cases, but have failed with us. The bark and myrrh were administered but one day, and every dose was vomited up. It cannot therefore be said, that tonic medicines assisted. During the whole course, the man drank more than a pint of port wine daily; but port wine, it may be presumed, would not cure the bubo. It is evident then, that no kind of diet interferes with the nitrous acid, or counteracts its effect. The patients on

(x) In a letter from Mr. H. to Dr. Beddoes, November 14, 1797, we learn, that " Robert Harris was discharged on the 13th of October, after his bubo had been perfectly sound a fortnight, and his health reinstated: the sum total of the nitrous acid taken by this man was two hundred and fifteen drachms." Many other successful cases were afterwards communicated to the public by Mr. Hammick and Dr. Geach. It is a curious fact, not only that the above quantity of acid (and in another case 307 drachms) did not excite salivation, but that a patient of Mr. M'Grigor in Bombay took two ounces and two drachms daily without affecting his gums. See Beddoes' Communications 1800, page 85, Case xvii.

whom this medicine has been tried, have used the different kinds of diet, according to the established rules of the hospital. This cure, thus far advanced, has not been made in *a corner*, but in a great hospital. A short history of every case in which the nitric acid has been used, was taken; the books and the medicines prescribed, are now to be seen, and are open to any inquirer. The man himself is still with us, and the vestige of his malady is sufficiently conspicuous. Let it not be said, that *the nitric acid may succeed with sailors, and sailors only.* It has succeeded with marines, new recruits who had never embarked, and had no scurvy. Whatever may be the success of this medicine, when its use becomes general, I can aver, from my own attention, that Mr. Hammick's account is true; that the case has been very accurately minuted, and faithfully stated. The case, though singular in its nature, progress, and cure, is not a single instance of the efficacy of the nitrous acid. WE STILL GO ON SUCCESSFULLY; and, if in future we should be disappointed, if it should not answer our expectations in every species of the venereal disease, we shall, as far as comes under our notice, remark, and communicate the failure. It would be wrong to impute infallibility to it. The medicine has failed in several instances, and so has mercury. *It will require time, acumen, extensive practice, unprejudiced judgment, to bring this medicine fairly to the test; to remark in what stages of the disorder it will do good; where its success may be doubtful; where it is certain.* It seems to answer better in buboes, chancres, excoriations, than in venereal eruptions, disseminated over the whole body.

"I am, &c. FRA. GEACH."

SECTION

SECTION the Sixth.—*Reports in Favour of the new Remedies, by Mr. George Kellie, Dr. Thornton, and several Practitioners in America.*

I. THE second volume of Dr. Duncan's Annals of Medicine, for the year 1797, contains the history of five cases ; from three of which Mr. GEORGE KELLIE (Surgeon of His Majesty's ship the Leopard) infers, “ either that the syphilitic virus was destroyed by the nitrous acid, or that it was capable of SPECIFICALLY CHANGING THE SYPHILITIC ACTION.

THE FIRST CASE is that of a marine, who, a month after receiving the venereal infection, was labouring under “ an ulcer upon the præputium, of the extent of a sixpence, superficial, ragged, painful, and dry, together with a little discharge from the urethra and a scalding.” On the 28th of April 1797, the sore had increased in size, and assumed a more unhealthy aspect, so that Mr. K. had “ no doubt that it was a true syphilitic ulcer.” From this time till the 12th of May, he took the acid, in the proportion of a drachm and a half, diluted with a pint of water, every day, and the sore was dressed with Ceratum Epuloticum. The patient's gums were not made tender by the acid, nor was his breath rendered at all fetid ; but his fauces became inflamed and tumid, attended with difficult deglutition and “ a considerable ptyalism.” He had used no medicine whatever, before he put himself under the care of Mr. Kellie, and was discharged by him, cured, on the 24th of May. There were no appearances of secondary symptoms, nor any return of the former ones, upon the 23d of August ; when Mr. K. communicated the following information, as the result of his farther experience :

SECOND CASE. “ Mr. C had a small vene-
real

real chancre, which he discovered on the 14th of May, and knew it to be the immediate consequence of impure coition. The chancre was dressed with common cerate, and the nitrous acid was given to the extent of *half a drachm* daily, for ten days. Within that time the ulcer healed ; since which (to the 23d of August) no other venereal symptom has appeared. Mr. C. thought the medicine increased his saliva, but it had no other sensible effect."

THE THIRD CASE was of a man who on the 1st of June was received on the sick list for a virulent gonorrhœa. Laxatives, astringent injection, and powdered nitre, were employed daily, but an enlargement of the inguinal glands appeared on the 7th. It did not, however, increase considerably ; and he was discharged to duty on the 15th of the same month.

In three days, he again was affected with the bubo and pain in the inguinal glands, when he applied a solution of acetated cerusse, and began to take a drachm of the acid in a pint of gruel every twenty-four hours : the dose was varied afterwards, as the patient could bear ; but it did not prevent suppuration taking place in the groin. The acid was omitted on the 12th of August following, when the bubo had got well.

II. IN DR. BEDDOES' first Reports, p. 86, an allusion is made to "*a case of Syphilis where oxygen gas was thought beneficial* ;" and he refers to the Third Part of his Considerations on factitious Airs for the particulars of that case, which are related in a letter from DR. THORNTON of London, dated May 5, 1795. As I have lately heard it affirmed that oxygen gas has cured the Lues Venerea, without the aid of any other remedy, it may not be amiss to subjoin an abstract of the case referred to by Dr. Beddoes.

A merchant, who had become the victim of indiscretion, employed mercurial pills and ointment,

until he had subdued the primary symptoms. This proteiform disease, however, discovered its virulence in the secondary stage ; and when Dr. Thornton saw the patient, he says, “ the surface of his body was deformed by dreadful blotches ; he had an ulcer on the lungs, attended with a hard cough, and bloody and purulent expectorations, with other horrid marks of this dreadful scourge of illicit desires.” Dr. T. being convinced of the fatality of consumption from syphilitic ulcers, “ urged the use of vital air. Mr. Hill accordingly gave him *each day* the superoxygenated air, in the proportion of *two quarts* to eighteen quarts of atmospheric air ; and by way of medicine, he had muriated mercury in the strongest decoction of bark, with the powder, and two grains of opium at night : he was also occasionally purged. By this course, without any violent effect from the mercury, he was in three weeks clear of all defœdations of the skin, and in a month the ulcer on the lungs was healed, and the other marks of syphilitic affection disappeared ; and in six weeks he went to Margate, deeming himself perfectly cured.”

This letter of Dr. Thornton, being dated prior to the earliest communication of Mr. Scott, seems to prove that Dr. Girtanner’s idea (of oxygen curing the Syphilis) was put to the test of direct experiment in England, before the trials at Bombay had been publicly announced.

III. On the 1st of November 1797, Dr. Beddoes gave public notice (in the Monthly Magazine) “ that the first part of a *new* collection of cases was actually about to be delivered to the printer ;” and he intimated, that he “ did not purpose to send out less than a *hundred* respectably attested cases at a time : ” The same gentleman, in a subsequent letter (dated Jan. 1st, 1798), tells us, “ In the Collection of Observations on nitrous Acid, now in the press, of

which the first, and perhaps the *second century*, will appear in March next, I shall have the satisfaction of producing evidence from various and distant quarters. I shall give a second letter from Mr. Scott, of Bombay. THE POSITIVE EVIDENCE IS SUCH AS APPEARS TO BE INCAPABLE OF BEING INVALIDATED BY NEGATIVE; especially as the facts to be brought forward will account, to a certain extent, for the general failures that are said to have been experienced in some places." He informs us, however, by another letter, on the 7th of March, that this encouraging publication was unavoidably delayed; and that his correspondents "*in America have been employing nitrous acid there, with various, but, FOR THE MOST PART, WITH GOOD SUCCESS.*"

See a communication respecting the trials in North America, Part II. p. 252 of this Essay.

SECTION the Seventh.—*Favourable Communications by Dr. Ferriar and Mr. Simmons of Manchester.*

I. THE next publication I have met with, wherein the new plan of treatment has been recommended, is the third volume of DR. FERRIAR's "Medical Histories and Reflections," p. 161 and 223. This gentleman appears to have used the acid discreetly, and to have drawn his inferences with judgment: his cases will assist in leading us to something conclusive.

1.) ELIZABETH JOHNSON had constant pains in her head and limbs, nodes on the shin bones, a large ulcer on the crown of her head, and some smaller ulcers on the thighs. Her disease was of three years continuance, and had been repeatedly treated by insufficient courses of mercury. Dr. F. put her upon a proper plan of treatment, by mercury, opium, and bark, but could not relieve her symptoms essentially, although her mouth was kept sore for some time.

A fatal

A fatal termination was expected, until the nitrous acid, diluted with water, was administered: this remedy caused the ulcer on her head to heal, relieved the pains, and gave her additional strength. But she was afterwards negligent in taking the acid, on account of its having disagreed with her bowels; so that the cure remains still incomplete.

2.) A. B. had a chancre, with slight ulcerations on the tonsils, copper-coloured eruptions, and nocturnal pains. Dr. F. put him on a mercurial course, which made the symptoms give way, and healed the chancre. But the patient, being disgusted with his medicines, discontinued them. After four or five months he returned, with a renewal of his former symptoms, pains over the nose and orbits, together with small ulcerations on each side the lower part of the septum narium. Dr. F. not having then heard of Mr. Scott's remedy, administered mercury a second time, and it again removed the symptoms: but the patient became unmanageable, and withdrew himself once more. After the expiration of a year and a half, he applied again, with incessant racking pains in his head and limbs, a node on the left tibia, a discharge from one nostril, and pain about the situation of the ethmoid bone in the left orbit, as well as a sense of rawness in his nose: he was now much emaciated, anxious, and deprived of his appetite. Dr. F. directed the diluted nitrous acid every day, and opium at night, according to the state of his bowels. A blister was also applied to the node on his left leg. Under this treatment the pains of the head and legs abated in three weeks, but the pain in the orbit and discharge from the nose increased. By this time the dose of the acid had been augmented to fifty drops, four times a day, and it began to affect his bowels, though joined with considerable doses of opium; the mercurial pill was therefore

given, five grains night and morning, and in a few days more he discontinued the acid. " His symptoms were removed soon after the mercury affected his mouth."

DAVID JONES's complaints (the third case recited) were not clearly venereal, but rheumatic and paralytic: they were, however, gradually relieved by taking a drachm of the acid four times a day; and he has now regained the use of his limbs completely.

WILLIAM BROWN's case (the next in order) was an instance of the happy effects of the acid in severe sciatic pains, but does not properly come under my notice, on the subject I am treating. In none of the above patients was the mouth affected by the exhibition of the nitrous acid, in the manner described by Mr. Scott.

5.) " ANN MAJOR, in consequence of a syphilitic affection, imperfectly cured, was liable to nocturnal pains and nodes, chiefly about the forehead. She had been ill upwards of five years, when I saw her. Mercury, mezereon, sarsaparilla, and tincture of guaiacum, were successively employed, with various success, till last summer, when I put her on a course of the *nitric* acid. In a few weeks, she felt more relief from this medicine than from any other that had been employed. In August last, she was ordered to take five drops of *muriatic* acid, four times a day. Under this course, she had no return of pain, but thinks her appetite and strength improved."

6.) SAMUEL LLOYD had a relapse of secondary venereal symptoms, after an imperfect course of mercury. Calomel given every night, by order of Dr. F. did not relieve him: he then took five drops of *muriatic* acid, four times a day, which, by being persisted in from August the 28th to September the 14th, removed his pains entirely. But on the 29th of September,

tember, the pain returned with great severity : the nitric acid was then substituted for the muriatic. October 7th, his pains were lessened, and his mouth was exceedingly sore, by taking forty drops four times a day. November 5th, his mouth was again sore, and discharged saliva pretty copiously : the pain of his head had been returning some time, and was now violent, particularly in the forehead. A blister produced no relief. On the 16th it was excruciating : the acid was discontinued, and ten grains of oxygenated muriate of potash were given thrice a day. November 20th, a large node appeared on the temple. The potash was increased to the dose of fifteen grains, four times a day. 28th, His forehead and face were extremely painful : the node increasing : his mouth very tender, but no increasing discharge of saliva. December 7th, Head and face very painful : there was a general enlargement of the *os frontis* : no soreness of the gums or ptyalism. The potash was omitted, and the patient put on a course of calomel. 21st, His head much easier. February 8th, His head completely relieved, and his mouth sore from the calomel. March 1st, Continues easy, except at the angles of his jaws, in consequence of the mercury.

7.) " MARY KEENE had been a patient of the Manchester Infirmary, at different periods, during the course of five years, for syphilitic complaints, which were often suspended, but never entirely removed, by the use of mercury, guaiacum, mezereon, and sarsaparilla. She applied to me once more (Dr. F. observes) as an out-patient in the summer 1797. She then complained of pains in her bones, and the occasional appearance of nodes, chiefly on the forehead. I ordered her to take five drops of *muriatic acid*, four times a day. When I last saw her, she had continued this medicine upwards of a month, and thought her pains greatly relieved by it : no nodes had

had appeared. She used no other medicine at the same time, and she had employed no mercury for a very considerable time previous to her taking this acid."

8.) "JOHN LEES had the venereal disease upwards of four months. He had chancres originally, which were healed when I first saw him; and he now complained of pains in the bones, sore throat, a large nauseous discharge from the nose, and some external ulcers. He had taken mercury, but not for some time before I saw him. I ordered him half a drachm of diluted *nitrous* acid, four times a day. He continued this course for three weeks, without the smallest advantage; I then threw in mercury, still administering the acid, and his symptoms are yielding more quickly than I could have expected. In the course of two months, after this report, he was able to attend as an out-patient at the Infirmary."

The Doctor adds, "Besides the cases which I have thus mentioned at length, I have used the nitric acid in a variety of venereal complaints *in conjunction with mercury*. I have not perceived, that by this combination, a smaller quantity of mercury was sufficient to eradicate the disease, nor have I found that the sensible action of mercury on the salivary glands was at all promoted by the use of the acid. My observations would rather lead me to suppose, that the acid lessens the irritability of the system, and prevents the extent to which the mercurial disease usually proceeds. In speaking of immediate deductions from facts, I set the chemical pathology aside. It appears from the facts I have mentioned, that the specific power of the nitric acid, in venereal complaints, is limited to certain symptoms, in the advanced stages. It seems to remove the pains of the long bones, and to act on the superficial ulcers of the third stage; but *I should hardly be inclined to trust*

trust the cure of any well-ascertained venereal affection, to the acid ALONE. Mr. Simmons's trials of this remedy shew that this acid is capable of extinguishing the symptoms in a recent case. I have never been able to ascertain clearly, that the soreness of the gums and slight salivation, of which the patients certainly complain sometimes, while they are using the acid, depend on a general action on the salivary glands. I can positively assert, that I have known the acid taken in large quantities, for a considerable length of time, in conjunction with the free use of mercury, without producing any ulceration of the gums or increase of the saliva ; yet with the effect of destroying every venereal appearance, in well-marked cases." Dr. F. does not undertake to explain these contradictions to the principles on which the nitric acid has been introduced ; and thinks it possible, that the difference between his experience and Mr. Scott's may be owing to the diversity of the climate in which their respective experiments were made. Upon the whole he concludes, that " the nitric acid has a powerful effect in certain stages of the venereal disease, but that neither the extent nor the permanency of this effect is yet ascertained ; that we have acquired, at least, a valuable auxiliary to mercury, an useful remedy against chronic rheumatism, and, what was much wanted, a palatable tonic." He has employed the oxygenated muriate of potash but seldom, in syphilitic complaints ; and says, he has " seen no remarkable advantages derived from it."

II. THE above-mentioned Surgeon, MR. SIMMONS, has detailed a case of chancre and bubo cured by the free use of *nitric acid*, diluted with water and sweetened with sugar ; likewise a case of *confirmed Lues Venerea*, the particulars of which I shall refer to the next chapter, with Mr. Simmons's observations

servations thereon. He has “ given the common nitrous acid of the shops, in this disease, under a variety of circumstances, in primary and secondary symptoms : the result corresponds with the above recited cases. It would appear that the affection of the gums and consequent salivation is owing solely to the direct action on them, and may be avoided by sucking it through a quill, straw, or glass tube.” He says, that “ although it has failed in secondary symptoms, when the constitution has been much exhausted by previous disease and a long course of mercury, it has had speedy and permanent effect in restoring the health and strength. Under circumstances where a mercurial course cannot be entered on, it arrests the progress of the disease. An example of this may be taken from a person labouring under Lues Venerea being seized with *typhus*, the venereal action is suspended during the fever, and is again renewed on its termination ; in this case the acid must be of doubtful propriety : the acid, however, will not only relieve the venereal affection, but restore the patient’s strength ; and coincides, admirably, with any tonic plan that may be adopted. In ulcers, remaining after a mercurial course, and which, though for a time relieved, are aggravated by the further use of mercury, I have derived much benefit from it.”

Additional evidence in favour of the new plan of treatment, under certain circumstances, appears among the histories adduced in a subsequent Part of this Essay.

CHAPTER III.

*Unfavourable Reports concerning the new Remedies,
with occasional Animadversions.*

SECTION the First.—*The Testimonies of Mr. Bowles,
Dr. Girdlestone, and Mr. Benjamin Bell.*

HAVING exhibited the substance of what has been already published by practitioners in support of the new plan of treatment, I proceed now to give an abstract of those reports which appear to militate against its title to superior efficacy.

I. In the collection of cases first published by Dr. Beddoes, there are several communications which, if they do not invalidate the conclusions which have been hastily drawn from partial success, at least must occasion a doubt concerning the efficacy of the nitric acid *in every form and stage of Syphilis*. MR. BOWLES, for example, gives the following account of three cases wherein this acid had been exhibited in St. Peter's Hospital at Bristol.

" ANN THAVEN, a patient of my own, had a large and foul ulcer on the calf of the leg, bearing all the marks of the secondary venereal ulcer (*w*) ; under a course of the cort. peruv. and the application of local stimulants, the ulcer in her leg healed : but at this period some glandular tumours appeared in the neck, which proceeded to suppuration ; the nitric acid was

(*w*) Mr. Bowles relates a case in the second collection by Dr. Beddoes, p. 252, of a woman having "several venereal ulcers in the abdomen, arms, and legs," (November 1797.) On taking the acid a month, all the sores healed ; but she was afflicted with a "violent hemicrania," which could only be cured by calomel and opium exhibited every night. "In the course of a fortnight the head-ach yielded to this medicine, and no other was necessary to complete the cure."

now given her, beginning with sixty drops each day, and increasing the dose gradually to a hundred and twenty. This plan was continued six weeks, during which no alteration could be perceived, except an increase of appetite, and occasionally some degree of gnawing pain in the stomach."

" ANN RICHARDSON, a patient of Mr. Salmon's, had nocturnal pains in the bones of her extremities, and nodes on the left ulna and tibia. For some weeks she used mercury without any apparent benefit. The nitric acid was given her in the same quantity as to the last patient, and persevered in for an equal length of time ; but without mitigating the disease. She experienced the same increase of appetite, and uneasiness in her stomach, as the former patient."

" MARY POWELL, a patient of Mr. Davies', had nocturnal pains in her bones, and an eruption which was supposed to be venereal. Mercury had alleviated, but not removed these symptoms : for about six weeks she continued the nitric acid, in the same doses as the former patients, but it produced no change in the disease ; the effects upon her stomach and appetite were the same as in the foregoing cases. The acid given to these women was at first the common nitrous acid ; but in a few days it was changed for the colourless acid distilled over silver by Mr. W. Clayfield."

II. DR. GIRDLESTONE, of Yarmouth, has given a very decided testimony to the inefficacy of the nitric acid, and the great superiority of mercury, in various cases of the venereal disease : but it is to be regretted that his report on this subject is so short. These are his words :

" *I have tried the nitric acid in a variety of syphilitic cases, without having been able to effect ANY cures with it. Those of my patients who have taken it,*
to

to the quantity of a drachm and an half; or two drachms daily, have generally found it to produce, within eight or ten days, a copious flow of saliva, with tenderness and swelling of the gums, but not unfrequently an INCREASE of the venereal symptoms: I have then generally substituted the mercurial frictions, with very rapid good effects. But the salivation excited by the nitric acid, does not seem to prevent the patients from bearing the mercurial frictions as long, without producing ulcerations about the gums, as if no previous tenderness had been excited by the acid. I have also observed, that the nitric acid may be immediately given and persisted in after a mercurial salivation, without producing any farther alteration upon the gums, unless it be that of enabling the patient sooner to resume mercurial frictions."

III. MR. BENJAMIN BELL, of Edinburgh, whose writings on every part of surgery have entitled him to special attention from the public, bears likewise a remarkable testimony against the oxygenated remedies. His opinion is thus given by Dr. Duncan, in the Annals of Medicine, 2d Vol. 1797 : " We think it may not be improper to mention, that while there are many advocates for the use of the nitric acid in syphilitic complaints, Mr. Bell informs us, that IN EVERY TRIAL WHICH HE HAS MADE WITH THIS ACID IN THE CURE OF SYPHILIS, IT HAS COMPLETELY AND ENTIRELY FAILED ; insomuch that he is now clearly of opinion that no dependence should be placed on it : and whether mercury has been given or not, it appears to him to be equally ineffectual.

" The favourable opinion which some have been induced to form of the nitrous acid in the cure of syphilis, Mr. Bell supposes to have arisen from chancres and other symptoms of the disease having disappeared, while this acid was the only remedy employed

ployed for them. But, from frequent opportunities for observation, he asserts, though contrary to the generally received opinion (*x*), that chancres as well as some other symptoms of Lues Venerea, will occasionally disappear, whether any remedy be employed for them or not. In some instances these will never recur again, as he has repeatedly found to happen, even with nodes: but, most commonly, venereal symptoms afterwards again appear with more violence in some other form.

" This being the case, and the most distressful consequences having ensued *in all the instances* (*y*) in which he has known this acid to be depended upon for a cure, the disease having rapidly gained ground in all of them (by which much blame was thrown upon the practitioners, for advising what at best must be considered as a very doubtful remedy, when another, which rarely or never fails, was in his power), Mr. Bell considers it as hazardous and improper in any degree to trust to it. He is afraid that much mischief is likely to ensue from the frequent trials which are now making with this acid, in many instances, perhaps, without any dread of the failures which are likely to occur from it.

" Mr. Bell has never found that the nitric acid,

(*x*) From the intercourse I have occasionally had with practitioners of large experience in this metropolis, as well as from my own reiterated observation, I was emboldened to publish an opinion nearly similar to this of Mr. Bell, and am happy to find it corroborated by so respectable a testimony.—See the Monthly Magazine, January 1798, p. 2.

(*y*) I admit that it is desirable to obtain the most distinct, circumstantial, and detailed evidence on this subject; but I do not think the testimony above cited is so bare and worthless as to be altogether rejected. "Let the testimonies," says Dr. Beddoes, "be the very reverse of such as have been ushered into the world under the names of Mr. B. Bell, Mr. Heaviside, and Mr. Blizzard."—p. xxx. *Introd. Observ.* 1800.

whether given internally or applied as a wash, has proved more useful in the cure of ulcers of any description, than the acid of vitriol or the muriatic acid ; while none of them have acted with such certainty in cleansing sores, and thus reducing them to an healing state, as the different varieties of the vegetable acid, whether common vinegar, lemon-juice, or the acid of sorrel."

SECTION the Second.—*Additional Evidence of the defective Powers of the new Remedies in Syphilis, by various other medical Practitioners.*

BESIDE the above proofs of the superior virtues of mercury in Syphilis, and the inefficacy of the new mode of treatment ; a few similar hints may be collected from the gentlemen who have written on the opposite side of the question.

I. MR. H. SCOTT, in his first letter, confesses that in some cases he " had failed altogether ; but in those cases, mercury had long been given to little purpose, the bones were highly diseased, and the habit probably of a peculiar kind."—If it be said that this confession does not tend to lessen the merits of the remedy, inasmuch as even mercury itself, the grand specific, had likewise failed ; it may be replied, that a medicine which is so much more efficacious than mercury, as many affirm, ought to evince its virtues " in all the forms of Syphilis, and in every stage of its continuance." We are informed that DR. Beddoes " HAS RECEIVED FROM MR. SCOTT INSTRUCTIONS TO SUPPRESS WHAT HE SAYS ABOUT THE EFFECT OF BATHING, AS HE IS NOT SATISFIED WITH HIS TRIALS." Medical men will doubtless be impatient to know the cause of this retraction !

Some gentlemen took umbrage at the following

expression in my circular letter of October 16th, 1797 : " We have been informed that above an hundred bad cases stand attested as cured beyond all reasonable doubt : but, on impartially examining the evidence brought forward respecting them, there is ground to conclude that this declaration has not been verified by *legitimate examples*."—It may now be asked, whether the truth of my observation does not begin to appear ? Mr. S. is not satisfied with his trials, and wishes to suppress what he has said about the effects of nitric bathing ; although, a few months ago, he was of opinion that his cases were DECISIVE, and that they afforded the MOST SATISFACTORY EVIDENCE in favour of the nitrous acid bath, which was STILL MORE EFFECTUAL THAN ITS INTERNAL USE.

If Mr. S. has pronounced too positively and prematurely on one part of his experience, may we not justly fear lest he has on the other part also ? I have been repeatedly told that some of the medical practitioners in Edinburgh have seen *relapsed* cases, which were formerly thought cured by the nitrous acid in the East Indies !

II. DR. JAMESON relates two cases which could not be treated with the nitrous acid, on account of its having produced a sensation in the stomach " *like scalding water* ;" although he appears to have administered it with the greatest precaution, and reduced the proportion of that medicine to only half-a drachm in twenty-four hours.—In similar cases, what resource have we but mercury ?

III. It has been likewise hinted that DR. WITTMAN was unable to continue the nitrous acid in a patient having ulcerated fauces, &c. from the Laes Venerea ; and that he was obliged to cure him by the *old specific*.—Does not the incompetency of the new remedy in such horridly destructive cases, detract

tract greatly from its merit? Will mercury ever "be banished," and the "poison of Syphilis be extinguished," by so unsuitable a medicine as this? If it be not adapted to the worst venereal cases, how comes it to be offered as a substitute for mercury?

IV. MR. BAYNTON, whose testimony in favour of the acid has been given, "in two venereal patients under the last stage of the disease," says, "in another case similar to these that had resisted mercury in every way, and where this acid appeared to have a fair trial, I could not discover that the venereal symptoms were alleviated, though the patient's general health was improved by its use. In a case of ulceration, attended with *actions specifically diseased* (z), that affected the arm of a patient who had long laboured under Syphilis, and who had taken very large quantities of mercury without advantage, the acid was also tried by my advice without success."

V. DR. RUTHERFORD describes the very rapid effects produced by the nitric acid in "severe pains

(z) It has become the fashion among philosophers of a certain description, to explain obscure phenomena by terms which are absolutely unintelligible! Thus Mr. Kellie observes that the nitrous acid is capable of "specifically changing the syphilitic action," and Mr. Baynton talks of "*actions specifically diseased*." Is not this amusing us with words, instead of ideas? The introduction of hidden properties or causes, (as Sir I. Newton has suggested in his Optics, p. 377,) "puts a stop to the improvement of natural philosophy. And," says he, "to tell us that a thing is endowed with an OCCULT SPECIFIC QUALITY, by which it acts and produces manifest effects, is to tell us nothing." If the form of a disease, or the operation of a remedy, be unknown, it certainly throws no light upon the subject to say that it consists in a "PECULIAR ACTION," the nature of which we cannot possibly conceive, because we have neither measure nor test of its existence. Gentlemen who use such unmeaning phraseology, would do well to consult Mr. Locke's Observations on the Abuse of WORDS, and the Honourable Mr. Boyle's Remarks on the vulgar use of the term NATURE.

of the bones, swellings in the periosteum, fici, &c. but, he adds, that “ the same symptoms have recurred soon after the medicine had been discontinued : and in one example where this had happened, the same complaints, which had yielded almost at once to the acid, now proved absolutely refractory to it, *and were at last removed by a course of mercury.*”

VI. The fourth case related by MR. KELLIE, which he calls “ a confirmed Lues,” did not amend after the regular use of nitrous acid from June the 21st to July the 10th, 1797 : the patient was therefore discharged to sick quarters, “ affected with an ulcer of the left tonsil, pains of the tibiæ, cough, dyspnœa, expectoration, morning sweats, and frequent pulse.”

VII. The bulk of Dr. Beddoes’ first publication is occupied by the reports of DR. GEACH and MR. HAMMICK : these practitioners have nevertheless intimated, that the “ nitrous acid failed in four or five instances, and failed too where the cases have been apparently *slight.*” It would be wrong, Dr. Geach very candidly observes, to impute infallibility to it.

VIII. MR. SIMMONS, of Manchester, has detailed the following interesting case of secondary symptoms, in the Appendix to Dr. Ferriar’s third volume of Medical Histories. “ Mr.’s man-servant has been afflicted with a venereal complaint for some time: the present symptoms are, nocturnal pains, extensive ulcers in the tonsils, eruptions on the forehead and hairy scalp, and an abscess on the right side of the scrotum, affecting the testicle on that side. I directed him to take the muriated mercury, and to suspend the scrotum in a bag-truss. On the disappearance of the symptoms,

he

he left off the medicine ; the former consequently returned after a short interval ; and he has now ulcers in his tonsils and a discharge of matter from the scrotum. November 29th, I directed sixty drops of the *nitric acid*, diluted in a quart of water, with some sugar, to be taken daily. December 4th, Throat better ; complains of great tenderness in his teeth and gums, but there is no visible inflammation in the latter. Ordered to take the medicine through a quill. December 7th, Throat better ; no complaint in the mouth ; pains abated. December 14th, Throat the same : two days ago the eruption reappeared on his head and forehead. Increase the acid to eighty drops daily. December 29th, Eighty drops made his throat so painful, that he was obliged to lessen the dose to sixty : the tonsils are now healed ; but an ulcer has appeared in the angle at the base of the uvula, on the left side ; the eruption on the forehead is very itchy, but less vivid ; that on the scalp better. Let sixty drops be taken daily. January 10th, 1798. Tonsils healed, but the new ulcer extends rapidly ; eruptions less vivid. Again increase the dose to eighty drops in a day. January 16, Ulcer increasing : eruptions as vivid as at any former period ; complains of pain in his throat, and the return of the nocturnal pains, which had ceased ; his countenance also looks heavy and oppressed, exhibiting the same appearance as when he first applied to me ; scrotum very little troublesome. He cannot take more than sixty drops a day. Discontinue the nitric acid, and have recourse to mercury."

Mr. S. remarks that this case shews, " the nitric acid is capable of relieving ulcers of the tonsils by its direct action ; yet, that *it fails in permanently removing secondary symptoms*, whatever temporary relief it may afford." He adds, that he has given

the common *nitrous* acid in secondary symptoms, under a variety of circumstances ; and that the result corresponds with the above recited case.

CHAPTER IV.

The Author's own Experience of the Effects of the new Anti-venereal Remedies.

SECTION the First.—*Introductory Remarks.*

ON the 14th of March 1797, DR. GEORGE PEARSON, of London, shewed me the first communication of Mr. Helenus Scott, in the Bombay Courier, and requested me to make trial of the new anti-venereal medicine at the Lock Hospital. I had never before heard of this plan of treatment ; nor did I *then* make myself thoroughly master of Mr. Scott's practice : indeed, I gave the subject but little attention, till about six months after that period.

I have here transcribed my cases with all the fidelity and perspicuity of which I am capable : the reader may rest assured that there are no material inaccuracies or misrepresentations in them, arising from the deceitfulness of my memory ; because they were noted, in all their essential points, from day to day, as I visited the patients. A few circumstances, in addition to those I noticed myself, were recorded by MR. DIXON, the then resident pupil at the hospital, upon whose veracity I could fully depend.

It may likewise be mentioned, that it has been the uniform practice, at all times, to make an entry of whatever is remarkable in any of the diseases of the patients who are admitted ; and that the books in which these minutes were entered have been carefully examined, before I sent my papers to the press.

The

The majority of patients to whom I administered the acid, &c. were labouring under a *confirmed* Syphilis. This selection was made, because I thought the successful treatment of *primary* symptoms was not generally conclusive; and, because the efficacy of the new remedies had hitherto been chiefly supported by such fallacious examples of the disease.

In detailing my experiments, I have not entered minutely into every circumstance, which would be tedious and uninteresting, but merely stated those particulars which can in any manner affect the leading question; and, such practical deductions or observations as arise from the cases in general, will be found at the conclusion of this Essay, PART II.

In order to obviate an objection (*a*) which has been thrown out against my cases, and the inferences which I have drawn from them, it may not be improper to repeat what I formerly asserted, February 1798, in the Medical Society of London, (*See its Memoirs, vol. v. p. 228;*) viz. that "The acid of nitre which I administered, was procured partly from Apothecaries Hall, and partly from private chemists; the oxygenated muriate of potash was obtained at first from Mr. Coxwell, near Temple Bar, but afterwards (by the recommendation of Dr. Rollo and Mr.

(*a*) The objection to which I allude is this, that the failures arose from some irregularity or impropriety in the administration of the remedies, or from a want of perseverance and steadiness in the practitioner or patient. But, if this objection be supposed to have had any ground in the failures of one practitioner, it is very remarkable that the results of numerous future trials of various other gentlemen, should have proved equally unsuccessful; and that their failures should even have been so general, as wholly to disappoint the public expectation! I have re-printed all my cases without any material alteration, (excepting those which were left incomplete,) that the medical world may judge between myself and the advocates for the new treatment, when time enough has elapsed to dispel prejudice or controversial subterfuges.

Cruickshank) from Mr. Speed, of Cannon Street : no difference, however, was observed in the effects of these remedies, thus variously supplied ; nor did I find the *nitric acid* to be more efficacious than the *nitrous*.

“ The trials I have made were conducted either at the LOCK HOSPITAL, or at the OLD FINSBURY DISPENSARY : in the former, I desired the nurses to see the patients take each dose exactly at the times, and in the proportion I prescribed ; and although this could not be done at the Dispensary, I have no reason whatever to suppose any deception was used by a single person at that institution.

“ To prevent all suspicion of my not having given these remedies in their full extent, I have usually continued the treatment from four to eight weeks, according as the events of the cases justified my expectation or procedure : in some of them I used the nitrous acid first, and then the oxygenated muriate of potash ; but without any difference in the result. The acid has been given in the quantity of two or three measured drachms daily, seldom more, till from one hundred to an hundred and sixty-five drachms were taken in the whole. I have several times given the oxygenated muriate of potash internally, to the amount of two hundred grains a-day ; but it could not be borne externally, after the method of *M. Alyon and Dr. Swédiaur at Paris*.

“ In a word, I have uniformly ‘endeavoured to bring every thing to the test of truth,’ as Dr. Geach very properly requires ; and have bestowed more pains in the administration of the ‘*new specific*,’ so called by an ingenious professor of pneumatic chemistry, than I ever found necessary in the application of the old one : therefore, if my success has been contrary to my wishes, the fault cannot be justly attributed to want of attention and perseverance.”

SECTION

SECTION the Second.—*Twenty-four Experiments with the Acid of Nitre, the citric Acid, and the oxygenated Muriate of Potash, in primary Symptoms.*

THE FIRST CASE in which I tried the nitrous acid was that of GEORGE KELLY, aged 30; who was admitted into the Lock Hospital on the 30th of March 1797, with a glandular swelling in his right groin, which seemed inclined to suppurate. He contracted the venereal disease two months before; and, at that time, had chancres: but, when he applied to me they were healed; his mouth was also affected by mercurial medicines, which he had previously taken. April the 4th, I prescribed for him three measured drachms of the common fuming acid, in a concentrated state, diluted with a quart of water. This quantity was ordered to be drank, by a cupful at a time, every twenty-four hours. On the 6th, I increased the acid to four drachms a day, as it agreed perfectly well. His gums, which before were rather swelled and tender, had now returned to a natural state; and the size of his bubo was a little reduced. 10th, The tumor had nearly disappeared. The acid was continued in the same proportion. He complained of a tenderness in his cheeks, which probably arose from the local effects of the acid; but he had no inclination to a ptyalism. 13th, His mouth in the same state; and the bubo quite gone. 17th, The acid now gave him violent pain in his bowels: I therefore directed one grain of opium to be taken occasionally. 20th, The acid was still continued without interruption, and was not omitted till the 24th. I dismissed him, apparently cured, on the 27th, and have not heard of him since.

CASE II. JEREMIAH SULLIVAN, aged 40, was received

ceived into the hospital, on the 27th of April 1797 ; at which time he had an indurated bubo, of only one week's continuance. He contracted a gonorrhœa four months previous to his admission ; but I could not learn that he had ever had any other intervening symptom. He was treated with mercury, in the usual manner, as I had not then heard much of MR. SCOTT's mode of curing this disease. May the 8th, The bubo had greatly increased in size ; and his external fauces were rather swelled and painful. 18th, Enlarged parotid glands appeared ; in ten days time, they ruptured and discharged a great deal of matter. The indurated bubo still increased in the groin, and continued to be untractable for several weeks. The patient's general health seemed to require tonic remedies, and he evidently manifested a scrofulous constitution : I therefore gave him the decoction of cascarilla, and afterwards Peruvian bark, three times a day. He remained under my care till the 26th of August, and was then discharged, not perfectly cured of his glandular swellings, but, as I believed, entirely free from any venereal taint. Ninety-seven drachms of mercurial ointment had been employed, before he left the hospital, containing a third part of its weight of mercury.

This patient was one of those who, knowing that he had been exposed to the infection of Lues Venerea, could not be persuaded that his disease was chiefly scrofulous, and that mercury would never perfectly cure him. He was of a sanguineo-phlegmatic temperament ; of a dejected cast of mind ; his general habit enfeebled ; and, in short, his constitution was precisely what Dr. Beddoes describes as being peculiarly fit for the use of nitrous acid. An opportunity soon offered for my trying the comparative effects of this remedy ; for, the man returned

turned to the hospital on the 4th of December following, with a painful and indurated tumor in the right groin, which had come forward during the preceding month. He also had the same kind of strumous swelling in his neck as formerly, together with distressing pains in his limbs. I gave him the nitrous mixture in the day, and an opiate every night. 21st, His complaints got worse until this period; which induced me to order the warm bath twice a week, besides continuing the acid and opium. 28th, His pains were relieved by the bath, each time he used it; but the tumor in his neck had now broken and ulcerated. A cold saturnine poultice was applied to the neck. January the 4th, All his tumors were somewhat lessened; but the pains got worse, and the acid disagreed with his stomach. 8th, The pains in his large joints were intolerable: in other respects he was the same. Finding no essential advantage, either from the acid or the warm bath, I omitted both, and ordered a drachm or more of the volatile tincture of guaiacum three times a day, with fifteen grains of the compound powder of ipecacuanha (i. e. Dover's powder) to be taken at bed-time. This plan was persisted in till the 22d of January, when no amendment was perceived: the patient's spirits were now quite gone; he became wretched and impatient under his sufferings; and could only be pacified by permitting him, a second time, to use mercurial ointment. Although I could not believe mercury was necessary, on the ground of his being still labouring under Syphilis, I complied with the man's request, to prevent his eloping, and because I had not given him any relief by a different mode of treatment. He gradually amended, both in his pains and his tumors, by a slow course of induction. Twenty-eight drachms of the ointment reduced

reduced the inguinal glands almost entirely, but I thought it injured his general health. He desisted from using any more than thirty-three drachms, and was dismissed February the 28th, 1798.

CASE III. JOHN LEWIS, in the 18th year of his age, was admitted under my care at the Lock Hospital, upon the 16th of September 1797; three months before which time he had contracted a gonorrhœa, and was soon afterwards affected with a tumor in his right groin. The swelling continued to get worse by degrees, and was in a state of suppuration when I first saw him: he had also a slight phymosis, but no other complaint whatever. On the 16th, 18th, and 20th of this month, he rubbed in a drachm of mercurial ointment; as I had not then determined to use the new remedy. This will probably be considered as so much the more favourable for his cure with the acid.

September 21st, I directed him to take the following medicine daily; viz. of the *nitric* acid two drachms, and of simple syrup four ounces, mixed with a pint and a half of water. A cataplasin, made of the cold saturnine lotion and linseed meal, was applied to the bubo. 28th, The medicine agreed well, and the tumor began to diminish. October 5th, No inconvenience arose from the acid. It was repeated as before. 16th, The bubo was nearly dispersed. 25th, Quite well; but the medicine was continued regularly till the second of November, when he left the hospital.

Remark.—In this, as well as in all the subsequent cases, I gave the acid by measure. A graduated glass vessel was used for that purpose, which is sufficiently accurate to estimate the necessary proportion in ordinary practice. In the present instance eighty-four drachms had been taken, from the 21st of September

tember to the 2d of November. On comparing the weight of the nitric acid (which was carefully prepared by Mr. Coxwell, near Temple Bar) I found this quantity to be at least equal to *an hundred and forty-seven drachms (b)*; which, as far as I could then judge, was giving the patient a fair trial for his perfect cure. Unfortunately, however, he returned to me at the hospital in twenty-eight days, having numerous venereal spots upon his face and body, with nocturnal pains in his limbs, and an ophthalmia tarsi.

The eruption was undoubtedly decisive, whatever might have been thought of his other symptoms: I therefore put him upon a regular course of mercurial inunction, and discharged him perfectly cured of every complaint on the 20th of January following. I did not observe that the cure was effected by less mercury, nor in a shorter time, than is usual in secondary affections.

CASE IV. THOMAS PHILIPS, aged 20, came under my care on the 28th of September 1797, having slight chancres, small warts, and enlarged inguinal glands disposed to suppurate. He had been infected three months, and had used some mercury before he applied to me: he likewise employed five drachms of mercurial ointment in the Lock Hospital, before the acid had been ordered.

On the 5th of October, and every day afterwards, he took two drachms of the concentrated *nitrous acid*, properly diluted and sweetened. At first this medicine vomited him, gave considerable pain in the bowels, and occasioned a general tremor: but it agreed after increasing the proportion of the syrup.

(b) See the note to CASE xii. respecting the weight of a measured ounce of acid.

16th, One bubo had lessened a little. A warm linseed poultice was applied to the groins daily, until the 6th of November. 9th, His medicine nauseates him at the time of taking it, but improves his appetite and produces a general tingling sensation upon the skin. 23d, No change of consequence has happened till now; the left groin is better and the right perfectly well. His tingling continues, and he complains of a *coldness over his stomach* (c) when he takes the medicine. The inside of the prepuce is a little excoriated, as if a chancre would appear. 27th, The saturnine lotion was applied to his groin, to abate the inflammation which appeared to be increasing around the bubo. Little warts are sprouting up from the excoriated part. 30th, The bubo has got worse, and requires the pus to be discharged by a caustic. His medicine has been regularly continued; but it now gives him pains in his limbs, as well as the cold sensation and nausea. The warts are more exuberant, and the ulcer in the groin has increased. December 4th, His stomach revolts against the acid mixture; his pains are worse; his sore in the groin still spreads; and opium, which I have lately ordered, does not give him rest at night.

The plan of cure was now altered. Mercurial ointment was directed to be rubbed in; the sore was hereafter dressed with red precipitate of mercury mixed in cerate, and washed occasionally with a mercurial lotion. 6th, The bubo is beginning to lessen, and the excoriated part is better. 14th, Every venereal symptom has quite disappeared, except a small induration in the groin. On the 31st he omitted the inunction, and left the hospital four days after.

(c) I relate the fact at stated by the patient, without being able to explain it; but as this was not the only instance of COLDNESS complained of, I have no right to suppose it was a fiction. See the case of HARRIET BROWN.

His constitution was considerably affected with *erethismus* by employing the mercury.

CASE V. GEORGE HUGHES, aged 22, contracted the venereal disease about the middle of September 1797; at which time he had a glandular swelling in each groin. The same tumors remained on the 12th of October, when he was admitted into the hospital, but they had burst, and were covered with scabs. A warm linseed poultice was applied to the buboes, and the nitrous drink was administered as in the former case. 19th, The buboes seemed to be a little amended. November 2d, No material change has taken place these few last days. 9th, Considerably better. The acid continued as before. 20th, The swellings still diminish. The scabs having fallen off, I ordered the sores underneath to be dressed with simple cerate. 27th, The sores nearly healed. December 4th, The groins ulcerating again, and do not yield good pus. The simple cerate and acid continued. 6th, Having made no farther progress, I left off the acid, and ordered mercurial ointment to be rubbed into his thighs every night. 11th, Getting much better. 14th, The sores are scabbed over, but indurated glands remain. January 8th, No hardness in the groins. Perfectly cicatrized. 13th, Dismissed cured.

He used, in the whole, fifty-nine drachms of the ointment, containing a third part of mercury, which is full as much as is commonly required in similar cases, where the acid has not been given.

CASE VI. W. B. . . . consulted me on the 13th of October, with a chancre under the meatus urethræ, and a phymosis, of three weeks duration. At that time I relied more on the favourable reports which had been given of the nitrous acid, than upon my own experience: I was therefore tempted to prescribe the acid mixture, with a saturnine lotion and

cataplasma. 18th, He had diligently employed the means directed, and found himself considerably ameuded. The same plan was pursued till the 24th; when he called upon me, and was rapidly improving. November the 4th, The phymosis was quite gone, and the ulcer under the glans still healing: but on retracting the prepuce, a fresh ulceration was perceived upon the corona glandis. The acid was continued, but the daily quantity of it was now increased to three drachms. 11th, The phymosis has in some measure returned, with an œdematous state of the prepuce, an inflammation of the glans, and a worse appearance of the ulcers. A decoction of poppy-heads and chamomile-flowers was ordered to be mixed with linseed-meal, and applied warm twice a day. 15th, Fresh ulcerations are breaking out on different parts of the glans, and the old sores are spreading. I now directed the acid to be left off, and caloinel pills to be taken daily: but the patient having by some means discovered that I was making trial of a new medicine, told the Apothecary to whom he had taken my prescription that he was dis-satisfied. He afterwards did not choose to consult me any more.

I cannot tell what was the sequel of this case; but there is no reason to felicitate the *philo-acidi* on its progress, to the 15th of November.

CASE VII. ROBERT CARR, in the 25th year of his age, was admitted under my care at the Lock, October the 26th, 1797. His complaints were a very badly ulcerated and inflamed prepuce filled with large warts. It was eight months since he contracted the disease. DR. GEORGE PEARSON sent him to my house, before his admission: I then directed him to take the acid mixture (containing two drachms of acid and a quart of water) every day until he had procured a letter for the hospital. November the 2d,

2d, Free from pain, but the warts and ulceration no better. The mixture continued, and a cold saturnine poultice applied to the parts affected. 9th, The warts growing larger; the prepuce more inflamed, distended, and painful. 13th, Much worse in all respects: the acid omitted; a saturnine lotion ordered to be injected within the prepuce; the cataplasma repeated as before. 16th, The warts highly inflamed and very luxuriant. 18th, I removed the whole of the prepuce and the warts which were attached to it. 24th, The patient goes on properly. December the 4th, He was well enough to be discharged, and returned no more.

CASE VIII. WILLIAM GREEN, 26 years of age, applied to me on the 26th of October 1797, having buboes of two years continuance, and ulcerations on his scrotum. He had taken no medicine during the last twelve months. A cold saturnine poultice was immediately applied to the sores; and the patient was ordered to drink the acid mixture every day, as in the preceding instance. This plan agreed well, and produced an amendment in four days. November the 13th, He was improving rapidly. The acid and cataplasma continued. 20th, Nearly well in all respects. 28th, Perfectly cured. 30th, Left the hospital.

CASE IX. THOMAS BARRAT, aged 28, was taken into the Lock upon the 26th of October 1797. Fifteen months before that time he became infected with the Lues Venerea, and had inguinal tumors, for which he used mercurial remedies. When he came to me, he had chancres on the corona glandis, of two months duration; likewise severe pains in the shoulders, elbows, and knees: but he had not taken any mercury the last three months. I ordered him fifteen grains of Dover's Powder every night, and the warm bath twice a week: also a saturnine

lotion for his chancres. October the 30th, He began the nitrous drink. It made him very sick, but he persevered notwithstanding. November the 6th, The pains were better. 13th, The acid medicine continued. The pains rather less than before. The chancres not amended at all. 16th, The warm bath and opiate discontinued. 20th, Nocturnal pains affect him across his forehead. 23d, The pain in his arms severe again, and that in his forehead no better. Warts are sprouting out of the ulcers. I now renewed the dose of Dover's Powder for three nights, and ordered an escharotic application to destroy the warts. 27th, The patient told me "he had got worse ever since he left off the bath, but was then getting better apace."

Since the acid was not manifestly useful, it was omitted, and the warm bath was directed as at first. Mercurial inunction was now commenced. The warts were also obliged to be destroyed by the use of lunar caustic. December the 14th, He has no pains at all. The warm bath omitted; but the inunction was continued till the 8th of January following. He was dismissed well on the 11th of the same month. On the 3d of May he called upon me, to say the muscular pains in his arms and thighs have been very bad these two months past. Regarding them however as a rheumatic affection, I did not admit him into the hospital again.

CASE X. JEREMIAH PEACOCK was admitted as a patient on the 9th of November 1797. His original symptom a year ago was a gonorrhœa; which, after some months, was followed by ulcerations within the prepuce. He had these complaints on his application to me, besides a phymosis and holes through the præputium, of two weeks continuance, for which he had never employed any medicine. A linseed cataplasm and a saturnine lotion were used externally, while

while the nitrous mixture was taken internally. This plan was pursued, without any alteration, till the 20th, when warts were arising from within the prepuce, and through the ulcerated holes. 27th, The ulcers got wider, and the warts more luxuriant; so that I found it necessary to remove all the diseased parts by a free incision.

The acid was now omitted. He got better in a few days, and on the 11th of December was nearly well. Finding himself apparently freed from the disorder, he left the hospital before I intended to discharge him.

Remark.—A friend of Dr. Beddoes, whose critical acumen equals his practical abilities, has put this sagacious question at the foot of the above case: “For what reason could the acid have been discontinued, unless it was, fearing it might effect a cure, which may be now attributed to it?” A common reasoner would have attributed the cure to the knife, as in the sixth Case. This is the Mr. X. Y. Z. whom Dr. B. so much admires and commends for his “severe strictures” on my cases! Very severe indeed!

CASE XI. THOMAS PRICE, 23 years of age, was made a patient in the Lock on the 9th of Nov. 1797. He contracted the venereal disease six months before; and, at the time of his admission, had a considerable mass of enlarged indurated glands in each groin. He began the nitrous acid on the 12th, when the buboes shewed a disposition to suppurate. One of them ruptured and discharged some pus on the 16th, but it healed spontaneously in four days. 23d, The buboes were larger and more painful. A cold saturnine poultice was applied to them. 27th, They were both getting smaller, but one of them enlarged again on the 30th. He continued to take the acid regularly till December the 4th, two drachms in each day, and then omitted it.

By having recourse to mercurial inunction, the swellings were lessened within a week, and went on well till the 23d of December, at which time the patient quitted the hospital.

CASE XII. THOMAS NORTH, 23 years old, contracted the venereal disease in the beginning of October 1797, and applied to me five weeks afterwards. He then had enlarged, painful, and inflamed glands in each groin. November the 12th, I ordered the nitrous mixture, sweetened and diluted as before mentioned, which he took daily until the 14th of December. At this time no progress had been made, but the buboes were both of them increased in magnitude, and one was beginning to suppurate.

He now began to rub a drachm of mercurial ointment into his thighs, every night, and persevered in it nearly a fortnight before his mouth was sore. The buboes were considerably diminished by this treatment, although one of them still contained pus. I at length applied a small caustic to the suppurating part, and continued the course of mercury till a perfect cure was accomplished.

CASE XIII. JOHN WILLIAMS, in the 20th year of his age, was received as a patient upon the 23d of November 1797. His original complaints, which he contracted six months previous to his admission, were chancres. He endeavoured to get rid of these by some trifling means (*d*), but had taken nothing for three months before I saw him. He then had chancres on the middle and upper part of the penis;

(*d*) The judicious Mr. X. Y. Z. here says, "It is to be lamented that we are not informed what those trifling means were: I have no doubt these trifles were local and escharotic applications; and then we may know with justice where to place the origin of these secondary symptoms, without attributing any failure in [*to*] the antisyphilitic properties of the nitrous acid." I am willing to give Dr. Beddoes the full benefit of this discovery!

with indurated glands in each groin. I put him on the use of the nitrous medicine, two drachms of the acid daily, and ordered his sores to be dressed with a simple ointment. The acid did not at all disagree with him; so that he was able to continue it without any intermission, or diminution of the quantity, till I desired him to desist. No change of consequence occurred before the 10th or 11th of December, at which time his chancres were nearly healed, and the inguinal tumors diminished. There remained, however, a thickened skin, and a hard base around the cicatrized parts. Scarcely any alteration took place in the groins, for ten days longer; at which time he complained greatly of pains in his joints. December the 28th, The buboes not so much tumefied, and unattended with inflammation. January the 1st, They have lessened faster than usual these three days. 4th, The acid has thrown out very small whitish pimples, with black points in their centre, accompanied with an itching sensation all over his body. 8th, His groins are but little swelled now: the medicine was continued for three days more. 11th, Discharged from the hospital, after having taken ninety-six measured drachms of the acid, equal to above one hundred and fifty-six drachms by weight (*e*).

On the 19th of February he returned to me, with numerous, broad, syphilitic blotches on his breast and face; also a venereal sardocele, and an ill-look-

(*e*) Here and elsewhere I have reckoned eight drachms of the acid in measure, to be equal with fourteen by weight: this is probably too low a computation; for I have sometimes found more than fifteen drachms weight, in a measured ounce of the acid. But these niceties are not of much importance in determining the main question, whether or not the acid be an antivenereal remedy? See the remark annexed to Case II.

ing lardaceous ulcer on one tonsil. He said his throat became sore a month ago, but that his eruptions had appeared only a week. I immediately ordered the mercurial inunction. On the second day after his re-admission, upon inspecting his throat very carefully, I discovered that *both* his tonsils were ulcerating, and likewise the posterior fauces. He was now directed to fumigate twice a day with factitious cinnabar, and to rub in the mercurial ointment every night. By the 5th of March all his ulcerations, and likewise the sarocele, were entirely well. Most of the spots had also disappeared. April 26th, He left the hospital, and promised to return if any relapse should occur. I have not heard of him since.

Nothing worthy of peculiar notice happened during the mercurial course; nor could I perceive that the previous treatment, by nitrous acid, had occasioned any difference in the time or facility of his cure. But it should be mentioned, that one drachm of the ointment, containing a scruple of mercury, was as much as he could bear in twenty-four hours.

CASE XIV. JOHN STEVENS, aged 39, was admitted as a patient on the 23d of November, which was five months after he caught the disease. During part of that time he had been under Mr. FORD's care, at the Gerrard Street Dispensary, and took mercurial pills till his mouth was sore. On applying to me he had an ulceration upon the prepuce and glans. Immediate recourse was had to the nitrous acid, in the ordinary manner, and the ulcerated parts were dressed with simple white cerate once a day. The ulcer got better in ten days, and mended till the 14th of December, when it became stationary. 18th, Fresh exulcerations appeared on the glans penis, and violent pains affected his limbs of a night: the acid also now disagreed with him, so that he was unable to retain it upon his stomach any longer. A drachm

drachm of mercurial ointment was ordered to be rubbed in every night. 28th, The ulcers were healing very fast, and his nocturnal pains had left him. January the 3d, He seemed perfectly well, and was dismissed upon the 11th of February 1798, having then finished his mercurial course.

CASE XV. NICHOLAS BROWN, in the 25th year of his age, had intercourse with a woman of ill fame, about the middle of December: three days afterwards, one of his groins became slightly inflamed, painful, and increased a little in bulk every day. A week before I saw him a gonorrhœa came on, and both his groins swelled. When he was admitted into the hospital, the tumor on his left side was as large as a pullet's egg, and suppurating; the other was in an indurated state. He had not taken any medicine whatever for his present disorder.

This was regarded as an unexceptionable case (so far as primary symptoms could be so) for the trial of OXYGENATED MURIATE OF POTASH: I therefore ordered five grains, made into a pill with conserve of roses, to be taken three times on the 4th of January, and increased every day after. Nothing was applied to his buboes, and he was kept in a clean ward, separated from the other venereal patients. 15th, Through a mistake, the man omitted his pills the four last days. He had now increased their number to fourteen in a day, without any manifest advantage: his system was not affected by the medicine. 18th, A more copious secretion of saliva; but the patient's mouth was not at all sore, nor his gums swollen. His pulse beat ninety-four strokes in a minute. His tongue was not at all affected by the potash; nor could I discover any other sensible operation. 22d, In all respects the same as on the 18th, except that the quantity of his urine was augmented. 25th, The pills have been employed regularly: he now takes twenty-four in the day. His tongue has

at length become furred and whitish ; his pulse is increased in frequency, and he complains of the pills having given him a violent head-ach. But his venereal symptoms are not in the least amended. 27th, Yesterday and to-day, the pills have caused such a burning pain in his stomach, with sickness and a sense of weight, that he cannot bear them any longer.

His daily quantity had been augmented from two to twenty-six pills, each of which contained five grains ; so that in the whole, he took three ounces and thirty-five grains, *without any advantage whatever*. His pulse, at the last, beat one hundred and ten times in a minute, and were irregularly intermitting ; the head-ach, &c. continued to be very distressing, and the buboes were become larger than when he first was admitted. These circumstances determined me to commence a mercurial course, on the 29th of January 1798.

He bore the mercury very ill ; purging and griping were brought on by a very gentle mode of treatment ; but the tumors in his groins decreased in eleven days. February 9th, One bubo is quite gone, and the other nearly so. March 12th, The mercurial process has been very cautiously and slowly conducted. The little tumor remains stationary ; a plaster of euphorbium was applied to it, but without much effect. April 25th, I discharged him well, except the slight induration last mentioned, and ordered him to return if any relapse should occur. He came to me on the 7th of May, in the same state as when I dismissed him : being satisfied that no ill consequences would result from this trifling symptom, I ordered nothing to be done, and have seen him no more since that time.

CASE XVI. Mr. W. . . . of His Majesty's ship the *Romney*, was sent to me on the 5th of May 1798, by Messrs. BLIETH and KILPIN, of Great Russell Street.

Street. Mr. W. brought me a short account of his case and the medical treatment he had experienced on board his ship, which was drawn up by the Surgeon himself: but on making a few inquiries of the patient and of Mr. Kilpin, who had formerly attended him, I was enabled to obtain a more complete history; of which I subjoin the particulars.

This gentleman applied to Mr. Kilpin on the 8th of February, for a chancre upon the right side of the glans penis, which appeared about ten days before. He was ordered to use two scruples of the unguentum hydrargyri fortius (*Pharm. Lond.*) every night; at the same time the sore was dressed with the hydrargyrus nitratus ruber, mixed in some of the unguentum resinæ flavæ. 13th, A small chancre had made its appearance on the inferior part of the glans near the labia urethræ: the mercurial ointment was increased to one drachm every night. 16th, The first ulcer had spread considerably, and the other was become deeper, more extensive, and had destroyed a small portion of the urethra: the daily quantity of ointment was now augmented to a drachm and a half; Mr. W. was also desired to take a pill, containing half a grain of hydrargyrus calcinatus, every night. His mouth became slightly affected with the mercury on the 24th; at which time the inferior chancre had reached the edge of the superior one, and formed an extensive ulceration: but it had a florid and clean surface. March the 1st, His mouth was not yet sufficiently affected; the chancre had now diminished in size, and went on healing till the 13th, when he was obliged to repair on board his ship. His mouth got more tender, his gums swelled, a spitting came on, and the chancre healed rapidly, under the farther use of mercury administered by the Surgeon of the Romney. It was soon thought proper, however, to omit the

the mercurial inunction, &c. and to substitute LIME-JUICE. The Surgeon's own words are, " Suspecting the presence of scurvy, and well knowing the good effects of the citric acid in almost all kinds of ulcers, I ordered him at first one : tres, ter in die, and afterwards increased it to five times. It acted like a charm : the chancre assumed an healthy appearance, and some part of it filled up. In this promising manner did it proceed till about ten days ago, when the lime-juice began to gripe him, and he fell very much out of order : it was omitted. The chancre began to degenerate daily, and has now increased to *three times its original size*. For some days the mercurial course had been resumed, but without much hope of immediate benefit. Regimen may be of infinite service : here, unfortunately, the best cannot be obtained. Hence the propriety of going on shore, in order to favour the desired effect of medicines. The external application was, for the most part, an ointment composed of cerat : lapid : calam : four parts, calomel : one part. Arg : nit : Calx hyd : nit : and the acid : cit : were each of them tried ; but from none of them was marked benefit obtained.

" D. WHYTE, Surgeon of H. M. S. *Romney*,
2d May 1798."

It appears from the above account, that while Mr. W . . . took from nine to fifteen ounces of lime-juice in a day, the chancre " filled up :" but Mr. W. tells me he was at the same time using mercury ; and that as soon as he forbore its use, although the acid was continued, the sore got worse, and spread to an alarming degree.

From the very imperfect and irregular manner in which this patient could be induced to use mercury under my care, he afterwards had an ulcerated tonsil, thickened carpal ligaments, syphilitic blotches, and

nodes : but they ultimately yielded to a more complete course of mercury ; and I saw him, at the request of Mr. Kilpin, entirely free from all symptoms of the Lues Venerea, June 13th, 1801. ; when he told me "he had imprudently got drunk and wet to the skin last Christmas," which at first occasioned a diabetes, next was followed by a general anasarca, and at length so reduced him that he died on the 9th of July following !

CASE XVII. RICHARD PURSALL applied to me at the FINSBURY DISPENSARY, on the 10th of November 1797, with an indurated swelling in one of his groins, occasioned by cohabitation with an infected woman. I prescribed the same nitrous mixture as in the preceding cases : he took from two to three drachms of the acid every day, until the 1st of January. In the interim, the tumor inflamed, suppurated, and ruptured spontaneously : it continued some weeks in an ulcerated condition, and did not seem at all disposed to granulate. I therefore advised mercurial friction ; and it nearly healed the sore in eight days, without changing the dressings previously employed. He was discharged well on the 24th of January.

CASE XVIII. JOHN TUTHER, aged 21, came into the Lock Hospital, upon the 28th of April 1798, about six months after he had contracted the Lues Venerea. He originally had buboes ; and the inguinal glands were in a state of induration when he applied to me : beside which, he had a deep, extensive, and foul-looking sore, upon the inferior part of the glans, of above a fortnight's continuance. He said, he had not taken any mercury, but that "Mr. OWEN, of Chancery Lane, had given him the Peruvian bark, and applied poultices."

I immediately ordered a drachm and a half of Mr. Seaton's *nitric* acid to be mixed with a quart of water, and

and taken daily. Two days afterwards, he retracted the prepuce ; but being unable to bring it forward again, it had occasioned a degree of inflammation : I relieved him of the paraphymosis, and ordered him to use a saturnine poultice, as well as to inject a solution of acetated cerusse under his prepuce very frequently. May the 3d, I increased the daily quantity of the nitric acid to two drachms, as it had agreed hitherto extremely well. 7th, No amendment had yet taken place in the ulcer, and a phymosis had come on ; I therefore directed him, beside the internal medicine, to bathe his legs and thighs, an hour morning and evening, in six pints of water, acidulated with one measured ounce of the common nitrous acid. 10th, I could not discern the state of the ulcer, on account of the phymosis : the bathing had occasioned a troublesome tingling sensation in his skin, and the secretion of the urine was augmented. The bath was now made more acid *by half*, than I before ordered it : the nitric potion was likewise continued. 13th, His swelled inguinal glands are getting better. 21st, The ulcer is evidently lessened, though the prepuce cannot yet be drawn back entirely : the itching and heat upon his legs are so violent that he is unable to use the nitrous bath more than half an hour at a time : he spits a pint of saliva in twenty-four hours ; but his gums are firm, and not at all in the state of a person who has employed mercury : the fauces and cheeks are tender and painful. 24th, The chancre is nearly healed, and his other complaints are going off ; but the salivation arising from the local action of the remedy still continues, and likewise the itching upon his legs when he bathes them. 28th, On the eve of sending this case to the press, I called at the hospital : The patient informed me that he has been disturbed every night, for about a week past, with excruciating

excruciating pains in his shins. Upon examination, I found the upper part of both of the tibiæ very tender to the touch, and one of them a little swelled. He was desired still to persist in the nitric drink and bathing (*f*).

Additional Remark.—This was the last venereal case in which I used the acid during May 1798. It was administered at the particular request of Mr. SEATON of Westminster; who, hearing of my ill success, sent me a quantity, prepared for the express purpose of making accurate experiments. But as the above patient had venereal eruptions appearing on his face in the beginning of June, I made him rub in mercury from the 7th day of that month till the 9th of July; when, thinking himself cured, he left the hospital without my permission, and returned no more. The eruptions were clearly syphilitic, and disappeared after he had used the mercury three weeks.

CASE XIX. ELIZABETH WHITE, aged 19 years, was admitted into the Lock Hospital on the 17th of August 1797. She had then been infected with the Lues Venerea four months. At the time of her coming under my care, she had a gonorrhœa, and very badly ulcerated labia pudendi. Having passed through a course of mercurial inunction, the ulcer was found to be so slow in healing, that I ordered her to try the effect of the acid drink: she began it on the 12th of October, in the proportion of two drachms of nitrous acid to a quart of water, every twenty-four hours. After taking it six days, with the greatest difficulty, she was obliged to desist from its use, not being able to keep one spoonful more on her stomach.

(*f*) Note, the above case is said by Mr. X. Y. Z. to be "*in favour of nitrous acid.*" He will not think so on reading the sequel.

No benefit was derived from the acid during the six days it was exhibited; nor was much to have been expected in so short a time; but, from this and similar cases we may infer, that the acid (even if it were a specific) can never become a substitute for mercury, unless means be found of adapting it to all constitutions.

This patient and the next are said by the captious Mr. X. Y. Z. to have been “overdosed.” Let him remember who gave *from fourteen to eighteen drachms of the acid daily!*

CASE XX. MARY GARLIC, 19 years old, applied to the Lock Hospital on the 12th of October 1797. Six weeks before, she contracted the venereal disease, and had a tumor in one of her groins. When she came to the hospital, she had the same tumor, in a state of suppuration, and a gonorrhœa. She had not taken any medicine. October the 19th, I directed the nitrous mixture, as in the last case, a quart to be taken every day; and a linseed meal poultice, to be applied morning and evening, to the bubo. 27th, The bubo ruptured spontaneously: it was treated as before, and the acid mixture continued. November the 2d, I thought the patient began to get better: her medicine agreed very well. 13th, The discharge from the groin had become thin and ichorous: I therefore ordered the linseed meal to be mixed with salt water in future, and the acid to be repeated as before. 16th, The sore looked much worse, was very painful, and spreading. Three drachms of the acid were now ordered, in as many pints of water, to be drank every day. 21st, The symptoms were rather worse than better, and no suppuration had taken place in the bubo: the patient was therefore ordered to omit the acid.

27th, She began using mercurial ointment. I also directed the decoction of Peruvian bark, to be taken

taken three times a day ; and a poultice with crumb of bread and acetated litharge water, to be applied to the groin. She mended in a short time, and was nearly cured of the ulcer by December the 11th. I continued the course of mercury till the 19th of January, and dismissed her on the following day, perfectly well.

CASE XXI. PHILLIS CHAPMAN, 21 years of age, was admitted into the hospital, October the 26th, 1797. She was infected with gonorrhœa, a month before she applied to me, which was followed by an enlarged inguinal gland and swelled nymphæ. October the 28th, she began the nitrous acid, two drachms daily, sweetened and diluted. In five days she began to amend. November the 16th, The swellings were entirely gone. The acid was continued as before, till the end of the month ; when I dismissed her cured.

This case, if no relapse occurred, may certainly be numbered among the successful trials.

CASE XXII. ELIZABETH CRAFTS, aged 22, applied to the Lock Hospital, November the 9th, 1797. She contracted the venereal disease a month before her admission. At this period she had a gonorrhœa ; with her labia and nymphæ considerably excoriated, inflamed, and swelled. The same symptoms had continued from the time of being infected ; and she never took any medicine for the disease, except a few doses of Glauber's salts. November the 10th, The external labia were dressed with simple ointment, and washed with saturnine water. Two pints of the nitrous mixture, containing two drachms of the acid, were ordered to be drank daily. On the 16th, she was in no respect better, but was greatly troubled with a pain and difficulty in making water. For this complaint, I directed a scruple of nitre to be taken three times a day, in addition to the acid mixture ;

mixture; and a warm linseed poultice to be applied, instead of the cold lotion. 19th, Her symptoms were not at all amended; but the ardor urinæ increased considerably: the nitre was ordered four times a day, and the acid continued as before. 21st, She this day discovered venereal spots coming out upon her face, neck, and bosom; her labia pudendi were beginning to ulcerate internally, and the other symptoms had not yet abated.

These appearances induced me to forbid the continuance of the acid. On the 23d, she began to rub in one drachm of mercurial ointment (containing a scruple of mercury) every night. In eight days the ulcerated and inflamed parts were better; the eruptions disappeared in four more; and, by the 18th of December, she was in all respects apparently well. A proper course of mercury completed the cure.

In the above case, as well as in some others, I took for granted that the new medicine could not have removed the fresh symptoms, after it had failed in preventing their occurrence. In this opinion I suppose I am not singular.

Remark.—Mr. X. Y. Z. here exclaims, “*A specimen of the candour of the author!*” I may add, if he thinks differently, we have a specimen of the reasonableness of the critic! Would he have me persevere to the destruction of my patients?

CASE XXIII.—SARAH LEE, in the 19th year of her age, was taken into the hospital upon the 9th of November 1797, being three weeks after her having become infected with a gonorrhœa. At the time of her admission she had, beside this last symptom, a dysuria, and an enlarged nymphæ, which was slightly ulcerated. She began to take the acid mixture upon the following day. 12th, The dysuria was

was better. 20th, The discharge diminishing, but the ulceration not amended. A dressing of white simple ointment was now applied; which, in three days, produced an healthy appearance and healing of the sore. 27th, A fresh ulceration took place on the pudenda. The acid is still continued. December 4th, The ulceration was quite healed. 21st, I dismissed her cured. This woman was afterwards admitted into the Lock Asylum, and has remained perfectly well to the present time.

CASE XXIV.—ELIZABETH KING, aged 16, became infected with the venereal disease toward the latter end of September 1797. She applied to me on the 23d of November, with an open, ill-looking bubo, and a profuse gonorrhœa. On the 26th, she began to take the nitrous acid: a linseed poultice was also made use of twice a day, and a saturnine injection. She was cured of the gonorrhœa by the end of this month; but the ulcerated bubo had not begun to amend. December the 11th, The sore looked very livid and foul.

An ointment containing some red precipitate of mercury was now employed for a dressing to it, and the acid was discontinued. I likewise commenced a course of mercurial injection. 14th, The bubo looks fresh and granulating. The patient complains of tenderness and tumefaction in her throat and saucers: upon inspection, I perceived small sloughy spots on the tonsils. 21st, Her tonsils, &c. are quite well, but feverish symptoms, with a languid and frequent pulse, forbid the present use of mercury, and indicate antimonial medicines. January the 4th, During these last six days the mercury has been resumed; and the bubo, which before was stationary, is healing very fast. 18th, Extreme debility and erethism obliged me to order a generous

diet and Peruvian bark, in conjunction with the mercurial ointment. 24th, She recovered speedily, and was dismissed cured.

SECTION the Third.—Twenty-six Cases of confirmed Syphilis, wherein the Acid of Nitre was exhibited.

CASE XXV.—THOMAS MAIN, aged 35, was received as a patient in the Lock Hospital on the 6th of April 1797. He was infected with the Lues Venerea twelve months previous to his consulting me. His first symptoms were chancres, which, after some time, were succeeded by copper-coloured, scaly eruptions, clearly venereal, and an ulcer upon one of his legs: these were his complaints at the time of his admission, but the spots were beginning to fade away, and his salivary glands were affected by calomel pills which he had lately taken. This was the *second* patient to whom I gave the acid: I might have objected against him on account of the mercury he had already taken; but, being at that time anxious to make trial of the new remedy, I took the earliest opportunity of doing so, leaving it for my future experience to make proper discriminations and exceptions.

April the 10th, I directed four drachms of Mr. COXWELL's *nitric acid*, diluted in two pints of water, to be taken daily. This quantity was too much to begin with, and he had very great difficulty in taking it. 13th, He complained heavily of the pain, nausea, and *coldness* (g), which the acid produced in his stomach, every time he drank it; and told me “the mercury had done him good, but that this medicine had not.” Notwithstanding the uneasiness

(g) Such was the man's own story, and I had no right to report differently. Mr. X. Y. Z. is dissatisfied with this remark, and thinks *coldness* was only an imaginary sensation, not the effect of the acid.

he endured, the acid was continued, in the same proportion, till the 17th ; when the pain, &c. became so insupportable, that it would have been cruel to insist on his persevering.

Mr. Scott's first report gave no precise direction as to the strength of the nitric acid drink, only he says that he “ put half or three fourths of a madeira glass full of it in two pints of water ;” I was therefore unacquainted with the exact mode in which it ought to have been managed, and did not order it to be more diluted in this man's case. Mr. Scott, June 1796, says “ he gave one or two ounces by measure every day ;” so that I might well be exculpated for giving four drachms.

When he discontinued its use, after taking about twenty-eight measured drachms, his venereal eruptions were not at all altered in their appearance ; but his ptyalism was gone off entirely, and his gums were very firm. A course of mercurial inunction completed the cure. I dismissed him (at his own request) on the 22d of May.

CASE XXVI.—JOHN MACAULEY, aged 28, became a patient at the Lock, upon the 11th day of May 1797. Nearly five months before, he contracted a gonorrhœa ; chancres afterwards appeared, and were followed by buboes in the groins. When he applied to me, he had no venereal symptom beside eruptions, which were of the pustular form. I gave him two drachms of nitrous acid in a quart of water, without any syrup, to be taken daily. He also was directed to use the warm bath twice a week. 18th, The acid gripped his bowels and made him sick ; but he nevertheless persevered in taking it. 22d, The acid agreed, and the spots were fading. June 1st, The eruptions have become more vivid, and are larger upon his face. He says a slight salivation is come on, and that he spits half a pint in

the day. 8th, The spots are manifestly getting still worse. Omit the acid (*h*).

He now began to use mercurial ointment. The spots went off rapidly after rubbing in but twelve drachms, and he was discharged cured on the 25th of July; no unpleasant effects having arisen from the mercurial process. Fifty-one drachms were employed in all.

CASE XXVII. THOMAS DEATH, 24 years old, contracted a gonorrhœa in November 1794, which was afterwards succeeded by a bubo and venereal eruptions. On the 8th of August following he became my patient at the Lock, and passed through what I deemed a sufficient course of mercury to effect a permanent cure: but, it should be observed, that his mouth could scarcely be affected by the mercury during this treatment. He was discharged from the hospital in the beginning of October 1795. Exactly two years afterwards he was re-admitted, with several nodes on each of the tibiæ and an enlarged nose, besides fixed pains in his joints. October the 6th, I directed two drachms of nitrous acid to be mixed in a pint and a half of water, and sweetened with eight ounces of simple syrup, to be drank every day: at the same time he used the warm bath, twice a week. 11th, I was obliged to reduce the acid drink to only half its original strength, on account of its having disagreed very much with his stomach. 16th, His nose is well, and his pains are alleviated; but the nodes are not yet diminished. I again desired the acid mixture to be made as strong as at the first. 19th, He yet finds relief in his pains, the nodes begin to lessen, and his medicine agrees pretty well. 26th, The nodes are getting

(*h*) X. Y. Z. the candid critic, says, "Omitting the acid seems rather premature." What! when the symptoms got worse and worse? The event proved that mercury was the best remedy, if not the only one.

smaller every day. November the 2d, He still takes the acid with advantage. 6th, Nocturnal pains in his shins have lately broken his rest, and dispirited him. The next time I went to the hospital he had gone away, and has never again been heard of.

CASE XXVIII. JAMES BIRD, a sailor from Portsmouth, in the 39th year of his age, was admitted under my care at the Lock Hospital on the 23d of August 1794: he then had nodes on both his tibiæ; which, from the pain they were in, I supposed to be venereal. The history he gave me of his disease was as follows: Four days after being connected with a woman of bad character, a gonorrhœa came on; in three weeks more a little swelling, attended with extreme pain to the touch, and especially of a night, appeared on one of his shins: but he never had, at any period of his life, either a chancre, bubo, eruption, or any other venereal symptom beside the node. To get rid of this painful complaint, which he thought was the consequence of illicit commerce, he had recourse to mercurial pills during his continuance at Portsmouth: they salivated him a great deal, and afforded relief. In a few months, however, he was as much afflicted with his leg as formerly, and was obliged to come up to London for his cure. I put him upon a regular course of mercurial inunction: he rubbed in sixty-two drachms of the ointment; and during the whole course, spat about eight or ten ounces of saliva in the day. A fresh node made its appearance on the other shin, while he was using the mercury: but, he got apparently well, and had no nocturnal pains by the middle of October; when I discharged him, believing he was radically cured. Although this patient was admitted, and treated as if his complaints were venereal, I at the same time expressed my doubts of their being genuine. Certain dubious cases will now and then present themselves to our notice,

which have been previously called *Lues Venerea*, and have even been relieved by mercury : it would be cruel and impolitic to refuse such afflicted persons admission into the hospital, merely because we could not distinctly ascertain the nature of their disease.

This patient applied again to me on the 30th of July 1795, more than nine months after I had discharged him from the Lock. He had the same symptoms as before, without any fresh infection. On my inquiring further into his history, he repeated the account I have already stated ; and protested it was entirely true. I again resumed the mercurial ointment : he used *one hundred and fourteen drachms*, before I thought proper to dismiss him. Our ointment contains only a third part of its weight of mercury ; and is made by triturating it with simple hog's lard, without any other addition. His mouth was much more severely affected than it had formerly been ; and the daily quantity of saliva amounted to a pint and a half, very frequently two pints. Blisters were repeatedly applied to the nodes ; and at each time afforded relief from the pain, as well as lessened the tumors. The nodes had not perfectly disappeared when I discharged him ; which was upon the 19th of November ; having been nearly sixteen weeks under my care.

October the 24th, 1797, he came to me a third time ! The tumors on his legs were enlarged, and the pains of a night almost distracting : in fact he was worse than at any former period, both as to the number and tenderness of his nodes. Since he went from me, Mr. BIRCH had received him into *St. Thomas's Hospital* : he knew how I had treated the patient, and determined to adopt a different plan. He neither prescribed pills nor ointment, or any other preparation of mercury : but he gave the man (to use his own expression) " a pitcher of diet-drink every day for almost twenty weeks." The poor afflicted

flicted sailor, however, said that he “ was nearly as bad when he came out of St. Thomas’s as when he went in.” After he left that hospital, he was so reduced and impoverished that he entered into Lambeth Workhouse as a pauper : here he was again salivated ; but it did not alleviate his nocturnal pains in the smallest degree, nor were the nodes diminished by the mercurial friction. Having been more benefited at the Lock Hospital than at any other place, he returned to me, as I before mentioned, on the 24th of October : he then had used no medicine for nine weeks.

I thought, if the nitrous acid could cure this man, (whether his case were venereal or not,) the pneumatic system of practice was invaluable, and would prove a real blessing to the world. I was immediately determined to give the acid a fair trial, and to begin with it the same day. October the 24th, he took two drachms, diluted and sweetened in the customary manner. 30th, He rested better than before. The nodes were a little reduced on the 2d of November ; but he then was attacked with violent pains in his knees. 6th, No pain, on touching the swelled tibiæ with my finger. 13th, The tumors on his shins were lessened considerably, and not troublesome in the night. 16th, His knees were hot, tender, and extremely painful. 20th, In all respects better ; though the nodes diminish very slowly. 23d, His acid agrees well : he now takes *three drachms* every day. 27th, The tibiæ as before ; the knees much more easy. 30th, Nocturnal pains returned in his shins : they were so bad last night, as to require the administration of opium. December 4th, His nodes remain of the same size as they were a fortnight ago : the opium relieves his nightly pains : one knee is better. 11th, The pains in one leg are excruciating, although he still takes opium. 14th, The nodes have not diminished lately ; and the

pain in his leg, if possible, is worse than ever ! The acid has been regularly continued, in the quantity last mentioned ; but it never affected the salivary glands, in the smallest degree : it seems to have strengthened the man's constitution, and improved his appetite. As he now seemed quite at a stand, after having taken about *one hundred and seventeen measured drachms of the acid,* (TWO HUNDRED AND FIVE BY WEIGHT,) I could not believe the cure would be effected by this remedy *alone* : I therefore ordered mercury to be rubbed in, while the acid was repeated as before.

December the 18th, His torture has lately been *inexpressibly severe !* The mercury had not yet affected his mouth. Nothing was hereafter to be employed, except the mercurial friction, with a hot bath twice a week. 21st, He says the first bath has done him good : he sleeps better every night : his mouth is swelled, and he spits a pint daily. 26th, The salivation is greatly increased : he spits nearly three pints a day. The pains are much amended ; and the nodes are lessened considerably. Omit the ointment for one week, to relieve the soreness in his mouth. 1798, January the 2d, He mends slowly, but uniformly : the mercury was ordered to be resumed. 8th, His pains have almost left him. 15th, No pain at all, but one of the nodes has enlarged lately. 25th, A drachm of the ointment was directed night and morning : his spitting has nearly ceased. February the 5th, The patient gets stout and strong under the mercurial course. 8th, A blister was applied over each of the nodous swellings : it lessened them very evidently. Nothing material occurred till the 19th, when the salivation had increased to three pints daily : the mercury was now omitted, and more blisters were applied. He tells me he is better than he has been during the three preceding years. 28th, The spitting has not diminished.

nished. Repeat the blisters three times, in quick succession. March the 7th, The spitting is lessened to a pint and a half a day. 15th, He was desired to take five grains of the pilulæ ex hydrargyro (Pharm. Lond.) every night. 22d, Five grains of the pills were directed to be taken twice a day. April the 13th, I made him an out-patient, as he desired to have fresh air and exercise: the pills were continued as before. 25th, He returned to inform me, that he had a pain and swelling on the inferior part of one leg. May the 25th, I saw him now, for the last time: he says, "He works hard every day on board a ship in the Thames, and is as well as ever he was in his life, except in the lower part of one leg." On examining the part, I found a large tumor over the fibula; which I think will suppurate: but it does not appear to be a node. The pills were discontinued, and a warm plaster applied to the swelling. He promised to see me again from time to time, but did not fulfil his word.

CASE XXIX. WILLIAM PULKER, aged 30, applied to me on the 26th of October 1797; having a partial phymosis and numerous eruptions, with nocturnal pains in both the tibiæ. His original complaint, a year before, was only a gonorrhœa. He had taken no medicine for the venereal disease. October the 28th, He began the nitrous medicine. November the 2d, The acid agreed, and was continued. 6th, His spots looked more dull. As I was accustomed to direct the warm bath in eruptive cases, the nurse permitted it in this instance. The man went three times into the warm bath, without my knowledge; and says, that his eruptions were less apparent after each time of bathing. 9th, His blotches are certainly better; but the nocturnal pains are more distressing, and prevent his sleep. An opiate was ordered to be taken every night, and the mixture

mixture repeated as at first. 13th, A purging and griping are occasioned by the acid. The pill of opium is to be taken twice a day. 16th, The spots are more elevated and getting vivid, but the pains are alleviated. His bowels are still violently affected. I now ordered two ounces of spirituous water (aqua pimento) to be added to the mixture. 20th, His bowels are better. Omit the opium, and repeat the medicine with spirituous water, &c. 23d, A painful node appears on the lower part of the left fibula, which breaks his night's rest : the spots are much more prominent and red on his face ; while those on his body are not at all amended. 27th, The pains in the night, and his eruptions, are rather worse than better. Having tried the acid more than a month, I did not think it right to trifle any longer. Mercury was hereafter employed.

December the 4th, His node, pains, and eruptions are nearly well. 11th, He has no ailment whatever. The course was continued till January the 20th, when I discharged him completely cured, after having used seventy-three drachms of ointment, containing one third of mercury.

Remark.—X. Y. Z. is out of humour, because I did not name the proportion, &c. of the acid, which I shall now add, to satisfy his curiosity. Two drachms of nitric acid, and four ounces of syrup, were at first mixed with a pint and a half of water, for daily use. The result was so decidedly in favour of mercury, as to offend the disappointed critic. He asks “*Whether any credit ought in justice to be given to this case?*” I answer, yes; because I have not shunned to declare the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

CASE XXX. ROBERT CHACE, 25 years old, was admitted under my care, October the 26th, 1797. He contracted the venereal disease four months before : his

his first symptoms were chancres ; which he got rid of in a week, by taking eighteen pills. He has now lost his uvula and part of the soft palate, by an ulceration of two months continuance. The acid mixture was administered immediately, two pints per diem. He went twice into the warm bath, without my order, the nurse having presumed it was right, as the *new* patients generally are required to do so on their admission. November the 6th, He told me he had an ulceration near the verge of the anus, which had been there two months ; and likewise pains in his arms. No alteration was made in his treatment, except that a saturnine lotion was applied to the anus frequently. 9th, He used formerly to complain of a pain in his throat ; but it is now removed : his appetite has improved lately. 13th, I this day perceived an ulcer on the posterior part of the fauces : the palate looks cleaner than before, and the ulceration near the fundament is better. 16th, His throat is a little healed over. 20th, Much amendment in his palate and fauces ; but a fistula lachrymalis has just appeared. 23d, The fistula gets worse ; the fauces better. He takes three drachms of the acid in two pints of water, daily. 29th, Getting better in his throat. He begins to loath his medicine. December the 4th, Vesications appear on the palate and cheeks, likewise ulcerations upon his lips, from the immediate application of the acid ; his gums also are tender, but not swelled, and the enamel on his teeth is considerably eroded. I am informed that he has had a salivation some time. The ulcers are healed in his throat, but *pustular* eruptions have just broken out on his face. I directed him in future to drink the acid mixture through a tube, to prevent its touching his teeth and cheeks, likewise to diminish the daily quantity of it to two drachms. 11th, Not yet better of his lips

lips and mouth : the salivation has increased to three pints a day : the spots continue on his face. 18th, A bad *ozæna* has come on, with great pain, and a discharge of purulent matter from his nose: the fistula lachrymalis is relieved. In other respects he is much the same as on the eleventh. 21st, I now again ordered three drachms of the acid to be taken daily: his mouth, &c. is better; and he only spits one pint in twenty-four hours. 28th, His spitting has ceased entirely. The *ozæna* and puriform discharge continue. The incipient eruptions on his face (not being distinctly formed) are of a dubious nature; but I begin to suspect they are *venereal*.

January the 1st, 1798, A single scabby eruption has come upon one leg. He still takes three drachms of the acid, and it agrees very well. His general health is good. 4th, The scab on his leg has enlarged; and he shews me more pustular eruptions upon his arms, like those which appeared nearly five weeks ago in his face. The complaint in his nose is much the same. *He has already taken one hundred and sixty-five measured drachms of the acid; which are equal to UPWARDS OF TWO HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-NINE DRACHMS BY WEIGHT!* Some of his recent complaints seemed to be venereal; although the symptoms for which he first came under my care had entirely disappeared: I was therefore disposed to watch the progress of this curious case, and to desist from the new mode of treatment.

January the 5th, Omit the acid, and take Pilulæ ex mica panis bis in die. 11th, The scab on his leg increases in its dimensions. The man gets fat and has a very keen appetite: in other respects he remains as before. I now made him an out-patient, and desired him to continue the pills till I saw him again. 22d, He had no spitting when he left the hospital; but a salivation has since recurred: his front

front teeth are covered with tartar, and much injured by the acid : his gums are very painful, but not spongy as if he had used mercury, nor is his breath at all fetid. The other symptoms of disease remain stationary. Perstet in usu pilularum micæ panis. 29th, I discovered a deep and foul lardaceous ulcer in the lower part of his posterior fauces. He continues to spit very much. February the 5th, The ulcer has become as large as half a crown. I desired to see him again in three days. 8th, The ulcer has not got larger ; but is very filthy in its aspect, and clearly venereal : some of the spots on his face being completely formed, now appear to be well marked *syphilitic eruptions* : I conclude that his ozæna is also venereal ; especially as it has become much worse than before. Nothing would have justified my continuing the NEW SPECIFIC after this decisive trial : mercury was the *only resource*, and it was well I had such an efficacious remedy at hand.

On the 8th of February he rubbed a drachm of mercurial ointment into his thighs, morning and evening. He repeated the same quantity on the 10th, 12th, 13th, and 14th ; after which he used it once a day till the 25th. He was, by this time, materially relieved. The mercury having caused a copious discharge of saliva, and his gums being now tumefied, he rubbed in only a drachm every alternate evening. March the 3d, His throat is perfectly healed : his spots are all vanished : the ulcer in his nose is much better : but, the lachrymal sac has lately distended and inflamed as it did before. 8th, The fistula lachrymalis ruptured, and is healing again. 15th, His nose, &c. quite well. The mercurial friction was regularly continued, till the 20th of April, at which time he had employed about 70 drachms of the ointment. I now gave him five grains of the quicksilver pill, night and morning ;

and on the 30th made him an out-patient. May the 12th, He returned to me, and had more pills : they lasted him till the 31st, when he came to the hospital and returned thanks for his cure, saying " He was as strong and hearty as ever."

If there were no other case on record beside this, who could hesitate a moment in giving the preference to mercury?

CASE XXXI. PRICE POWELL, 35 years old, came to the Lock Hospital on the 9th of November 1797 ; with an hard loose tumor in the prepuce, as large as a nut ; and venereal eruptions all over his body, of one month's continuance. During the last four weeks he had taken no medicine. It is uniformly the practice for all our venereal patients to go *once* into the warm bath, before they commence the usual course of treatment : this man inadvertently complied with the custom, before he began the nitrous acid. 13th, He took the mixture containing two drachms, and repeated it every day, in the same quantity, till the 4th of December following, when I increased it to three drachms. A fortnight after he had taken his medicine, grievous pains afflicted him in the night, and the spots became still more distinct ; some fresh ones also came out at that time : but the little swelling in the prepuce had lessened. More venereal eruptions appeared in the first week of December. The acid was continued, three drachms daily, till the 18th : he suffered no inconvenience from it, except an unusual sensation of heat in the chest ; nor was any effect produced on the mouth or salivary glands. Having taken eighty-four measured drachms to no good purpose, I put him on a course of mercury without delay.

The eruptions yielded after using only four drachms of ointment ; they were greatly faded when he had employed eleven, and quite gone after rubbing in sixteen

sixteen drachms. I dismissed him on the 4th of February, having used sixty-six drachms in all. He bore the mercury extremely well.

CASE XXXII. JOHN BRANGDON, 33 years of age, was admitted November the 16th, 1797. The history of his case renders it doubtful whether it was venereal or not. Four years before, he had chancres : they got well, and were followed by no other symptom till within the last four months, when a firm and painful swelling came on one of his shins. For this complaint I ordered the nitrous acid. He took it till the 4th of January, and then left the hospital. The pains were alleviated greatly ; his node was much reduced, but not entirely gone : the acid, at last, made him giddy after taking each dose ; otherwise it produced no disagreeable effect. May the 7th, He returned to inform me that his leg has been very painful during the late cold winds and changeable weather : the node remained as large as it was five months before.

CASE XXXIII. THOMAS ALSEY, 18 years of age, applied to me November the 18th. He contracted a venereal bubo twelve months before : it had disappeared when he came to the hospital, and was succeeded by a considerable number of *pustular eruptions* (*i*) on his face and bosom, with ulcerating warts on the corona glandis. He employed the saturnine wash, and took the nitrous acid daily. His eruptions began to fade in one week, but the warts got larger and more inflamed. 30th, The spots were nearly vanished. December 4th, He has no

(*i*) "Here *pustular eruptions* again as proofs of venereal affection." So exclaims the Ignoramus X. Y. Z. whom Dr. Beddoes thinks a very competent judge of this disease!! See p. 322 of Part II. where I have endeavoured to clear up this gentleman's doubts. He has done wisely in not publishing his name. I recommend him to examine the progress of *pustular eruptions* in Case XXX.

appearance of eruption remaining : the verrucæ still more luxuriant. 11th, I applied the lapis infernalis to destroy them. 18th, A fresh set of venereal blotches appear on his arms. He spits a pint daily, but has not any soreness of the mouth, or swelled gums. The acid was ordered to be increased to three drachms a day. 29th, He is still salivated ; the spots are in the same state ; the warts have grown larger, and covered the corona glandis. Omit the acid : he has taken ninety-two measured drachms.

He now used mercurial ointment. Seven drachms caused the spots to fade a little, and diminished the inflamed state of the warts. He had no mark of disease remaining on the 16th of January, and was discharged February the 6th perfectly cured.

CASE XXXIV. ROBERT BLYTHE, aged 27, contracted the Lues Venerea about the middle of July 1797. His first and only symptom (he says) was an eruption : however that may be, he had no other venereal complaint when he applied to the hospital, December the 21st. The acid mixture was given : it agreed well, and made the spots disappear considerably in six days. January the 2d, He was still getting better, but eloped that day without leave.

This imperfect memoir will strengthen the other proofs of the temporary good effect which may be sometimes produced by the nitrous acid, in secondary symptoms.

CASE XXXV. JOHN BARTER, 21 years old, was taken into the hospital upon the 1st day of February 1798. At this time he had syphilitic eruptions all over his face and body. He had used no mercury for three months. This patient was of a scrofulous constitution, and had large glandular swellings in his neck. I wished to see whether warm bathing and diaphoretic medicines would take away his eruptions, without any other means : the bath was therefore ordered

dered twice a week, and fifteen grains of Dover's Powder every night. He likewise took a pill (*ex mica panis*) as a *placebo*, every evening and morning. The spots began to fade in a week, and went off more, by slow degrees, till the 19th of February: but, as they did not quite disappear, I omitted the warm bath, &c. and began Mr. Scott's new plan of THE NITROUS ABLUTION. One ounce of the acid was mixed with eight pints of water, and put into a wooden vessel, to bathe his legs and wash his thighs in morning and evening, an hour each time. 22d, He told me the lotion was absorbed very fast, and made his skin smart excessively. Half an ounce more of the acid was superadded to the water. 26th, I ordered another half ounce to be added to the bath. He bore it even thus much acidulated, and thought his spots were rather more faded. March the 1st, The patient informs me that the ablution always occasions considerable uneasiness, in the muscular parts of his feet, at the time of using it. The spots remain nearly stationary: the strumous swellings are getting worse and suppurating. 5th, He now has severe nocturnal pains in his shins, and the venereal eruptions are not altered in their appearance. The nitrous bath was regularly continued twice a day, for one hour. 8th, Finding no essential advantage from this plan, I desired the pills and lotion to be laid aside, and a drachm of mercurial ointment to be rubbed in every night.

In fifteen days the spots had nearly disappeared. The mercury was persisted in till the first day of May, when I considered the patient radically cured of his Syphilis, but the scrofulous affection was not materially amended. I gave him the nitrous drink during the last nine days: it agreed with him, and improved his appetite. May the 3d, I dismissed him from the hospital.

CASE XXXVI. HENRY BEZANT applied to me at the Old Finsbury Dispensary on the 14th of October 1797, on account of an enlargement of the superior part of one of his tibiæ, which arose about thirteen months before, and was soon followed by several creeping ulcers over the affected part. The painful state of this node, and the appearance of the ulcers, added to the long continuance of his complaint, induced me to conclude that it was a fit case for trying the comparative merits of the new antivenereal medicine: but the general history the man gave of his case, was too confused and incoherent to be worth recording. He began by taking a drachm and a half of the nitrous acid, diluted and sweetened, while the sores were dressed with yellow basilicon. In a fortnight he was freed from his nocturnal pains, but the size of the nodous tumor and the state of the ulcers were not altered. November the 8th, The acid was augmented to two drachms daily: he continued it regularly till the 14th, when his pains returned, the ulcers got more inflamed and spread wider. The node at this time was not at all lessened. 21st, The symptoms were more and more aggravated, the medicine gripped his bowels, and the plan was henceforth changed. The sores were now dressed with ceratum lapidis calaminaris, in which was mixed some red nitrated mercury; and two grains of calomel were given him every night. December the 1st, His pains and sores were much better. He was nearly cured by the 23d, and on the fourth day after, no vestige remained of the node, pains, or ulcers. He took the pills till the 4th of January, to perfect his cure and prevent any relapse.

CASE XXXVII. GEORGE WELLS, aged 27, of a sanguineous temperament, and apparently of a good constitution, applied to me at the Finsbury Dispensary September 26, 1797. His complaints at this time

time were venereal ulcerations upon his forehead and face, with an ozæna. Twelve months ago he had a gonorrhœa, and chancres on the membrum virile, for which he took mercurial medicines, and thought himself cured. But, six months afterwards, large blotches appeared in different parts of his body, which also went away by taking more mercury: they soon broke out again, and began to ulcerate on his forehead and face; after which, he likewise was troubled with a puriform discharge from his nostrils, attended with excoriation. It was in this stage of his disease he applied to the Dispensary. As he seemed to be under the influence of mercury at this period (September 26), I temporized a few weeks, to see if the disease was still in progression, and to give it the chance of forming more distinctly before I put him under a course of the nitrous acid. October the 20th, he came and told me an ulcer had lately appeared in his throat: on inspecting it, I found part of the soft palate and fauces to be sloughing away: he also had a painful node on the upper part of his right tibia. I then was confident that my former suspicions, of his case being a confirmed Lues Venerea, were too well founded, and lost no time in exhibiting the nitrous acid, which I had previously ordered from Apothecaries Hall. He immediately began with a drachm and a half, diluted in about twenty-six ounces of water and four ounces of simple syrup, which he took daily: he was likewise directed to take a grain of pure opium every night at bed-time. 24th, His throat gets worse, but his leg and other symptoms are much the same. The acid and opium were repeated as before. 27th, He thought he felt better in all respects; but I could not perceive any amendment in his external symptoms, nor in the fauces. The opium was omitted, and the acid continued. 31st, The ulcer in his throat began

gan to look cleaner, and the pain in the node was removed. The acid, which had now made his mouth tender, was repeated in the same proportion as before. November the 3d, No alteration for the worse, and his throat getting more florid, as if it would begin soon to granulate. 7th, The symptoms were stationary: his acid was increased to two drachms a day. 10th, No alteration, either in the disease or the remedy, except that I directed two ounces of *common treacle* to be used instead of the syrup. The acid mixture was found to be more palatable when sweetened in this manner. 14th, A swelling has appeared over the tendons upon the back of one hand, accompanied with pain and immobility of that part: the ulcers in his throat are getting more foul and wide than they were: his node is again become painful of a night: in other respects he is nearly as before. The acid was still repeated in the same quantity. 17th, The ulcerations on his face and forehead do not heal, but are dried on their surface, without having any tendency to suppurate. The tibia is more painful, but not quite so much enlarged as it has been. The ulcers in the fauces and palate are not at all cleaner, and are manifestly wider, as well as deeper. The patient now began to take two drachms and a half or three drachms daily, as his stomach would bear it. He spits a considerable quantity every day. 21st, The ulcers look very ill on his face and forehead; those in his throat are spreading so fast as to threaten the loss of his uvula: the tibia is still very painful, and breaks his rest every night: the ozæna seems nearly stationary; but if there be any alteration, it is not for the better: his swelled hand is the same.

This man having now taken the nitrous acid thirty-two days, in as large a quantity as he could be persuaded to use it, and being upon the whole materially worse,

worse, I did not venture to urge it any farther, but immediately directed him to rub into his thighs one drachm of strong mercurial ointment (*Pharm. Lond.*) every night, and to dress his external sores with a cerate in which some red nitrated mercury had been mixed. Being in poor circumstances, and in the open air almost every day, he was an unfavourable subject for a mercurial course; notwithstanding which, his sores became clean and began to suppurate, after the use of only half an ounce of ointment: his tibia was also much easier. December the 2d, The node had now nearly disappeared: no swelling was perceptible on his hand; the ulcers on his forehead and face were quite well: his throat and nose were likewise greatly amended. 6th, The ozæna scarcely troubles him, and his ulcerated throat has almost healed over its whole extent. He employs a drachm and a half of mercurial ointment every night, and begins to have his gums swelled: the ptyalism amounts to only half a pint in twenty-hour hours; but he secretes a great deal of urine, and perspires very much every night. There can be no doubt that mercury would have completed the cure; but he absconded, and I do not know the final event of the case.

CASE XXXVIII. REBECCA PUDDICOMB, a middle-aged married woman, applied to the Finsbury Dispensary on the 24th of November 1797. She had been afflicted with an ulcer in the soft palate, eleven or twelve months; during which time she had been treated by Dr. DE VALANGIN, and other medical men, without any success. From the appearance of the ulcerated part I instantly concluded it to be venereal, and my opinion was strengthened by its not having yielded to *common medicines*. The history of this case was rather obscure, and the woman herself did not suspect her situation to be what I told her it

was. I ordered her two drachms of the nitrous acid, to be taken daily, diluted with water, and sweetened with common treacle. She continued it steadily till the 29th, but got considerably worse.

This being a case in which the patient was in danger of being mutilated, unless relief could be had immediately, I left off the acid mixture, and prescribed two grains of calomel, with half a grain of opium, to be taken every night and morning. In three days the ulcer began to heal, and promised fair for a very speedy cure. Sixteen days afterwards her throat was completely well. On the 27th of December, I saw her, and desired her to continue the calomel as before. January the 16th, 1798, she returned thanks for her cure: but I ordered her to take a dozen more pills.

Additional Remark.—On the 25th of October following, I saw her perfectly free from the disease. Dr. Beddoes' friend and "ACUTE CORRESPONDENT," as he calls him, says on this case, "even the most common medicines work wonders in the author's hands." I have said, it would not yield to the *common medicines*, and that mercury alone saved the woman from mutilation, if not from death itself. Had I continued to exhibit the wonder-working acid, the poor woman's state would not have afforded an occasion for the pert caviller to exclaim, "*Providence seems to favour this man!*" but rather, *Providence seems to blast this man's endeavours.*

CASE XXXIX. MARY SMITH, a middle-aged married woman, became my patient at the Finsbury Dispensary upon the 15th of December 1797. She had an ulceration of the velum palati, and of the exterior parts of the alæ nasi, which I supposed were venereal. The former had been of twelve months, and the latter of four months, duration. But the history of her case was indistinct and unsatisfactory.

The

The acid mixture was given her without delay. 23d, No alteration having yet taken place, she increased the quantity of the nitrous acid to three drachms a day. January the 6th, 1798, the palate was healed over, but the ulcerated nose was manifestly worse. She still continued her medicine regularly, and only used a saturnine lotion to the nose. 10th, The alæ nasi were more swelled, inflamed, and ulcerating internally, but the mouth continued well. I believed it was the local action of the medicine which had healed the ulcer on her palate; and considering that, by longer delay, I should endanger the destruction of her nose, the mercurial ointment was therefore directed immediately, a drachm to be rubbed into her thighs every night and morning.

In ten days the sores were healing. They continued to lessen by degrees, and were apparently well on the first day of February. The mercurial friction was not omitted till the end of the month: I then dismissed her from the Dispensary; and as she has not returned, I conclude she remains well.

CASE XL. HARRIET BROWN, aged 21, was admitted as a patient into the Lock Hospital December the 3d, 1796, about two months after she had contracted the venereal disease. Her original complaints were a gonorrhœa and a bubo. When she came to me, the inguinal glands were considerably enlarged, and indurated. She passed through the usual course of mercurial inunction very gradually, and was dismissed apparently well, on the 19th of February. From the beginning to the end of her treatment, two or three pints of saliva were secreted every day, and the quantity of ointment she used in all was forty-two drachms.

As she was afterwards received into the Lock Asylum, I had an opportunity of learning (to my great mortification) that the Lues was not radically destroyed.

stroyed. This *Proteus* again made its appearance in the form of scaly eruptions, after a period of eleven weeks. I re-admitted her into the hospital on the 8th of May 1797. At this juncture, I had been trying the efficacy of *Calomel* ointment; and, as I had found it to produce exactly the same good effects as the *blue* mercurial ointment, (without being so uncleanly,) I resolved to use it in the present case. A free salivation came on after anointing herself twice, (with half a drachm each time, containing fifteen grains of calomel;) and when five drachms of the ointment had been used, all her spots were completely vanished. She then spat two pints and a half daily, and continued to secrete nearly as much till the end of her process. Forty-four drachms of ointment (containing half its weight of calomel) were rubbed in by the 21st of July, at which time I thought she was secured from any relapse. A singular complaint occurred while the mercurial process was conducting: A tumor formed under her tongue, containing a viscid, gelatinous, and transparent substance (much resembling the white of an egg,) included in a membranous cyst. I made a small puncture into the part with my lancet, and evacuated about four large spoonful of the jelly. It collected again three times.

In this and several other instances, I have been rather minute in detailing the progress of the venereal disease, previous to my employing the acid; the reader, I hope, will not think me tedious in doing so; nor consider his time lost, in attending to the whole of the leading circumstances connected with each case.

This young woman was re-admitted into the Lock Asylum. On the 20th of September following, I was unfortunately informed of *another relapse!* She was at this time almost covered with eruptions, had

nocturnal

nocturnal pains in the upper part of her right ulna, and was become dull of hearing. An excellent opportunity now offered of my trying the comparative effects of the nitrous acid: I immediately ordered two drachms to be taken daily. After five weeks regular trial of this inedicine, her spots were removed, except a few on her face and wrists. Each dose of the nitrous mixture produced a remarkable sense of coldness (*k*) within her body, and a tingling upon the skin; it likewise quickened her appetite extremely. She thrice used the hot bath, without my knowledge. October the 30th, Only a few eruptions were remaining upon the upper lip. The medicine was still continued without intermission. November the 9th, Neither the pains nor the deafness have hitherto got any better. I desired a grain of opium to be given her every night. 16th, Her nocturnal pains have been alleviated by the opium, but are as bad as ever in the day-time: many fresh eruptions are appearing upon her arms, and those on her lips have become reddened again: the deafness is not at all relieved, but rather worse. 20th, She is in no respect better. The acid occasions a nausea, but it is to be continued in the same proportion. 23d, The pain in her ulna still distresses her: she is likewise attacked with pains in her shins and knees, which keep her awake every night: more eruptions also appear on her arms and face (*l*).

Deeming it useless to persist in the acid any longer,

(*k*) As the singularity of this effect has been often cavilled at, I here again remark, that on another occasion this patient told me the same story, of the acid producing a coldness and even a shivering at each dose she then took.

(*l*) The "acute correspondent" X. Y. Z. here asks, "Would any other man have dared to assert that this case demonstrates the total insufficiency of the nitrous acid?" Let the candid reader judge between us.

I now directed the fourth part of a grain of muriated mercury to be taken in a pill night and morning. 27th, The eruptions have become more vivid on her face. Take one pill three times a day. December the 4th, She spits a pint and a half daily; her gums are tender; her spots are much better; but a severe griping in her bowels obliged me to lessen the quantity of the corrosive sublimate: I likewise ordered her to use the warm bath twice a week. 10th, The spots are all nearly gone off, even upon her upper lip. Continue the pill twice a day. 21st, The salivation has increased to a quart in the twenty-four hours. January the 4th, 1798, In all respects well, except her bowels. 8th, I exchanged her medicine for the Pil: ex Hydrarg : Pharm : Lond : of which she is to take five grains thrice a day. Omit the bath. 11th, Two pills are hereafter to be taken night and morning. 25th, The salivation has been kept up thus long, in the quantity of two pints daily. She now was ordered to leave off the pills. May 31st, Remained perfectly well, when I called at the Asylum to inquire after her.

September 28, 1807, I am this day informed by the Matron of the Lock Asylum that Harriet Brown has left this Institution, and was seen by her in perfect health near three years after she had been discharged from the hospital. The young woman then told her "she was lately married."

This is an instructive case on several accounts. While it proves the extreme difficulty of rooting out the venereal disease in some peculiar constitutions, (even by diversified courses of mercury,) it likewise demonstrates the total insufficiency of the nitrous acid...

CASE XLI. ELIZABETH SCARBOROUGH, in the 22d year of her age, contracted the Lues Venerea in June 1797. On the 26th of October she became my patient;

patient ; at which time she had ulcerations on the alæ nasi and on one shoulder. I ordered her the nitrous potion, two pints daily. It agreed very well, and afforded her a little relief by the 2d of November. Nothing remarkable occurred during this stage of her treatment. She went on gradually mending till the 16th, when the ulcerations on her shoulder and nose were almost healed : they had been dressed with simple white cerate. Four days afterwards, while the sores were still diminishing on the external parts of the alæ nasi, they spread inwards and ulcerated the nostrils : nocturnal pains in the tibiæ at the same time disturbed her night's rest, but the shoulder had now quite healed. 27th, The pains in her shins are extremely tormenting ; the nose gets worse internally, and an ophthalmia has affected her eyes. 30th, In addition to the other aggravations of her disorder, venereal blotches have at length broken out upon her face and bosom.

Experience now suggested the necessity of a different plan : the acid was relinquished, and mercurial friction adopted. December the 6th, All her venereal symptoms were going away rapidly. 14th, Perfectly well. 29th, She eloped from the hospital, believing herself quite cured, before I proposed to discharge her.

CASE XLII. ELEANOR ROBERTSON, 22 years of age, was admitted as a patient in the Lock on the 26th of October 1797. Twelve months previous to this period, she became infected with the Lues. At the time of her admission she had ulcers within the labia pudendi, a profuse gonorrhœa, and a painful enlargement of the left tibia. I ordered a vitriolic injection, a simple application to the ulcerated part, and the nitrous acid mixture. At first she was made sick by the acid ; but, by taking smaller doses at a time, it afterwards agreed with her stomach, and was

was continued with regularity. November the 2d, Her pains were alleviated. 13th, The node was greatly diminished. Three days after, the nocturnal pains had quite left her. 23d, The tumor is now stationary. The gonorrhœa has only just begun to abate. Probably she has been negligent with the injection. 30th, The node is lessened a little, but the vaginal discharge is augmented. I desired her to use the injection very freely. December the 11th, The tibia is not at all painful, though the node still remains. 18th, The gonorrhœa is now trifling. Repeat the acid and the injection as before. 22d, I dismissed her from the hospital, seemingly cured. She was received into the Lock Asylum.

May the 21st, I called upon her to inquire whether she remained well. The Matron informed me that she had sent her away the 25th of April 1798, on account of her being pregnant. One of the young women, who formerly slept in the same apartment with Robertson, told me "She used to have restless nights, from violent pain she felt in a swelling upon her shin as large as a walnut." This testimony, coming from a person who could have no temptation to deceive me, and who did not know the motive of my inquiry, must be admitted as a proof that the acid had not effected a permanent cure.

CASE XLIII. SARAH DOUGLAS, aged 26, contracted a gonorrhœa in the year 1795. I could not learn that she had, after this, any genuine venereal symptom; but a sore throat came on, for which she had been *seven times* salivated, (within these two years,) and was under the influence of mercury on the 9th of November 1797, when she first applied to me for relief at the hospital. At this time she likewise had severe pains in her knees, and one of them was so inflexible that she walked with great difficulty. The last recurrence of her sore throat was only three weeks ago, when both her tonsils ulcerated.

cerated. As she had been treated by several practitioners for the *Lues Venerea*, and would probably have fallen into the hands of ignorant empirics if I had rejected her, she was admitted. Similar equivocal cases are very frequently sent to the Lock. In peculiarly distressing instances, where patients would be likely to suffer from mismanagement, they are taken in, although not evidently venereal.

I gave her the acid mixture, with a common gargle. She was unable to bear more than half the usual quantity upon her stomach, as it had occasioned a violent corroding sensation. November the 20th, Her pulse was very frequent ; she had been delirious several times since I last saw her, and was now incapable of keeping the medicines upon her stomach any longer. Her sore throat, however, is perfectly well, and she spits three pints in twenty-four hours : the knees have been also greatly relieved, by using the warm bath twice a week. I prescribed Peruvian bark, and made her an out-patient ; but she never called upon me any more.

Remark.—Mr. X. Y. Z. gives the acid credit for having “ apparently cured this patient ;” but surely he cannot say she was affected with *Syphilis*, and the quantity of acid retained on her stomach was very small indeed.

CASE XLIV. SARAH FRAMPTON, 18 years of age, was admitted November the 9th, for large venereal ulcers on her arms and thighs, a scabby excrescence full an inch long upon the left ala nasi, and the vestiges of numerous eruptions on different parts of her body. She had formerly taken mercury with advantage at the Western Dispensary. A simple ointment was applied to the sores ; nothing was done to the excrescence of the nose ; and the nitrous acid was administered, in the proportion of two drachms to a quart of water. November the 20th, The acid medicine improves her appetite, and gives her strength ; but

but she cannot sleep, and the scab elongates daily. 27th, Her face has broken out with distinct syphilitic spots ; the excrescence gets still larger in its dimensions ; and the ulcerations are no better. I therefore put her on the use of mercury, and omitted the acid.

December the 4th, The venereal spots are more dull ; the ulcers heal ; but the nose has not yet altered. 6th, The eruptions disappear, and the scabby excrescence upon her nose gets loose. 9th, The scab has fallen off. She tells me the ointment is absorbed with the greatest difficulty. Her gums are but little affected with the mercury. 11th, All the symptoms get better very fast. 28th, Her nose is perfectly healed, and the other complaints have got well. January the 31st, As her mouth was not properly affected, the mercurial inunction has been continued till this day. She then was permitted to go into the Lock Asylum.

Though eighty-six drachms of the ointment were employed ; a painful suppurating node appeared on her left tibia, and three very large scabby blotches on her head, in so short a time as one month afterwards. May the 1st, I re-commenced a mercurial course : but she thought proper to elope, after rubbing in only nineteen drachms.

Remark.—Mr. X. Y. Z. inquires, “ What could have been expected from the exhibition of the nitrous acid eighteen days only ? ” I answer, If the disease got much worse during that time with the acid, but got much better in the same space of time with the mercury, we had no ground to form any conclusion favourable to the acid, and had reason to expect eventual success from the mercury. I cannot discover what has caused Dr. Beddoes to confide in the acuteness of this critic !

CASE XLV. SOPHIA BURTON, aged 24, was admitted under my care on the 23d of November

1797,

1797, six months after having been attacked with venereal symptoms. She had an ulceration in the soft palate, which had entirely destroyed the uvula ; with an ulcer, at least as large as a shilling, upon her upper lip ; and a considerable degree of deafness. Her original complaints were removed by mercury. A month afterwards eruptions appeared, for which she also used mercury and was apparently cured ; but, since that time the above-named symptoms occurred, and she has not again had recourse to medicine.

A weak nitrous mixture was now directed, and she attempted to take it ; but it gave her such extreme pain in passing down the throat, that she could not possibly drink it. The oxygenated muriate of potash was next tried, with no better success ; for she was unable to swallow a single dose. I then commenced a course of mercurial inunction, and removed all the symptoms with facility. She was greatly debilitated by the necessary treatment ; and I again ordered her to try the acid, only one drachm to two pints of water, after her throat was well : but it purged and vomited her so violently, that I was obliged to discontinue its use in four days.

Here then was a case in which, if we had not had any resource beside the nitrous acid and the other new remedies, the patient must infallibly have perished. This is not the only instance of the kind I have met with ; but it would be tedious to detail all the cases in which the new plan of treatment was begun and immediately discontinued, on account of the inconveniences it occasioned.

CASE XLVI. ANN HOWES, 21 years of age, contracted a gonorrhœa during the latter end of October 1797 : it was succeeded by tumors in the groin, eruptions, ulcerated tonsil, and an obstinate hoarseness. She applied to the hospital December the 7th, and was desired to use the acid drink, two pints

pints daily: it disagreed with her on the 23d, and could not be made to continue on her stomach by all the means I employed. She at last took three drachms of the acid for two days together, when sixty drops of the tincture of opium were added: but, I wholly omitted this medicine on the 25th, at which time no amendment was produced in the venereal complaints.

Four drachms of mercurial ointment caused the eruptions to fade, and the throat to heal over: twenty drachms relieved the hoarseness. On the 1st of March 1798, I dismissed her cured. She had generally a discharge of about two pints of saliva per day.

CASE XLVII. SARAH GAYLEARD, a married woman, in the 45th year of her age, was admitted into the Lock Hospital, September the 29th, 1797. She told me that she had borne fifteen children; that her husband was a regular and faithful man, in good health; and that she had caught the disease of a child which died at two months old. She said this child was known by Mr. Mackinder, (a Surgeon in Edgware Road,) to have been covered with venereal sores; that she nursed it, and used to dress the ulcers daily. She was not careful to keep her fingers from being soiled with the matter; in consequence of which three of her fingers on one hand, and two on the other, became inflamed and suppurated as if she had whitloes. A month afterwards, her arms, and then her body, broke out in blotches. At this time she shewed herself to Mr. Andrews, a medical gentleman; but took nothing for her disease. In another month she applied to me, and had the venereal spots upon her, which Mr. Andrews had seen. Although the particulars of this account are rather extraordinary, they were so well connected and told, that I thought them worth repeating.

She used the hot bath three times previous to her taking

taking the nitrous acid. October the 5th, Just before I prescribed the acid, I discovered ulcerations coming on the velum palati. She was ordered to take two drachms daily. 9th, It occasioned violent pain and sickness at every dose: eight ounces of syrup were added to a quart of the diluted acid. 12th, Her medicine agrees very well, and the spots are a little faded. 17th, The ulcerations on her palate have healed. Repeat the acid as before. 25th, Her spots are going off rapidly. November the 2d, Still getting better. Increase the daily quantity of acid to three drachms. 9th, The medicine was again reduced to its original strength; it having purged and vomited her lately.

I now made her an out-patient, as she wished to return to her family, and promised to continue the medicine. Scarce any eruptions were perceptible at present. 19th, She informed me that she had every night been attacked with severe pains in her shin bones. Her eruptions were also re-appearing. I ordered an opiate pill at bed-time, and the acid to be continued as before. 23d, The nocturnal pains have increased; the old spots have become more manifest; fresh ones are breaking out upon her bosom, and upon the nape of her neck. She protests that the acid mixture has been regularly employed as I directed (*m*).

26th, I again took her into the hospital, and desired a drachm of mercurial ointment to be used every night; but to discontinue the acid. A warm bath was also recommended twice a week. 28th, On using the bath this patient shed two of her

(*m*) The anonymous "*acute correspondent*" could not invent any objection against this trial of the acid; and therefore consoles himself by saying, "It appeared at first to produce a marked advantage." Aye, Sir, but you properly add, "The cure was obliged to be finished by mercury."

toe nails, as she formerly did those of her fingers. After nine days more, the spots and pains were getting better: in fifteen, they were nearly gone. January the 1st, She told me, that every nail, except two, have come off her fingers and toes, during the progress of this disease; and those two are at present loose. She wished now to be made an out-patient: I granted her request, and completed her cure by giving the mercurial pills of the London Pharmacopœia.

With a view to ascertain how far the singular history given by this woman was true, I wrote to Mr. MACKINDER, requesting he would inform me what he knew of the circumstances above mentioned. He gave me the following answer.

“ DEAR SIR,

“ On the 6th of April 1797, I was sent for to see the child which was nursed by Mrs. GAYLEARD. To the best of my recollection, it was universally covered with venereal ulcerations; all its nails were lost, and its eyes were particularly bad. I ordered it six powders, each of which contained half a grain of calomel; and a lotion for the eyes: one powder was to be taken night and morning. On the 9th I repeated the powders, and desired Mrs. G... to let the child’s parents know that it was in great danger: the next night it died. Mrs. G... at this time complained of uneasiness in the extremities of her fingers, and general irritation. I ordered her an opening mixture, and intended to have sent her some mercurial medicines; but she suddenly left the neighbourhood, and I have not seen her since.

“ I am, dear Sir,

“ Yours respectfully,

“ J. MACKINDER.”

Edgware Road, June the 6th, 1798.

CASE

CASE XLVIII. MARY SYMONDS, aged 34, was admitted into the Lock on the 28th of April 1798. She had had the venereal disease twelve months: her present complaints were, an aperture and sloughing in the posterior and lateral part of the roof of her mouth, an ulcerated ala nasi, a small sore upon the left shoulder, with a caries of the processus acromion scapulæ, and nocturnal pains in her limbs. I have before suggested (*page 109, Case xviii.*) that Mr. SEATON, of Westminster, sent me some *nitric acid* very carefully prepared, and that he requested me to make trial of it in a few venereal cases: this is another of the patients to whom I administered Mr. SEATON's acid.

April the 28th, One drachm and a half was diluted with two pints of water, without any syrup, and directed to be drank every day: but it made her so very sick, and produced so distressing an heart-burn, that she omitted it on the second day. 30th, To a quart of water was added one drachm of the nitric acid, and forty drops of the tincture of opium: this quantity was hereafter drank daily, and agreed pretty well with her stomach. May the 3d, The ulcer on her nose extends itself lower, and gets deeper: it was dressed with white cerate. 7th, The palate is rather worse; but the shoulder remains unaltered: her secretion of urine has increased lately.

I now ordered, in conjunction with the internal remedy, the nitrous ACID BATH; consisting of six pints of water, and one measured ounce of the acid, to be used an hour night and morning, after the manner directed by Mr. SCOTT. 10th, She feels a very cold unpleasant sensation all over her, and a bearing down of the womb, every time the bath is used: the venereal ulcers are stationary. Half an ounce more of the nitrous acid was superadded to the bath. 13th, Besides the cold sensation and

bearing down before mentioned, she now complains of sickness after each dose of the medicine, and painful bloody stools : her strength and appetite likewise fail daily. The internal use of the acid was ordered to be discontinued for a few days ; but it was to be employed externally : porter and broth diet were likewise allowed ; and a decoction of Peruvian bark, with the tincture, was prescribed to be taken three times a day. 21st, A painful node was lately discovered on the right clavicle ; it is very tender to the touch, and breaks her rest in the night : the ulcer in the palate is a little extended ; but that on her nose has decreased considerably : her shoulder remains in the same state as before. She has been regular in using the acid bath ; and says, it still occasions the bearing down, the bloody stools, and the cold sensation.

The appearance of a node was considered as an unequivocal proof that the Lues was in a state of progression, and that the acid was totally useless. 22d, This day the bath was employed for the last time : having now observed a spitting, I inquired how long it had been ; and was told, "she has daily spit a pint ever since she has been in the hospital." Last night she rubbed in a drachm of mercurial ointment ; and was desired to continue it every night, as well as to use a fumigation of cinnabar twice a week. 25th, The nose is nearly healed : the cold feeling and bloody evacuations have left her ; but the bearing down of the uterus is not yet well. 29th, Her nose is quite cicatrized ; the clavicle not at all painful, and very little swelled ; the ulcerated palate looks cleaner, and has begun to granulate.

June 7th, She still gets better in all respects, especially in her mouth. On the 5th of July, being anxious to leave the hospital, I made her an out-patient. She was going on well a fortnight afterwards, but

but did not return to consult me any more. I ordered her twelve grains of the mercurial pill daily, while she continued an out-patient; and on the 19th of July she took a quantity of the pills from the hospital.

CASE XLIX. ELIZABETH TURNER, 20 years old, was admitted April the 28th, 1798. She contracted the Lues Venerea six months before: her first symptom was a gonorrhœa, which was succeeded by a bubo; afterwards eruptions appeared about her body. For this complaint she underwent a mercurial course, at GUY'S HOSPITAL, under the care of *Mr. Cooper*: but, in the sixth week after her discharge, the eruptions returned. In this state she applied to me.

I gave her a drachm and a half of the nitric acid, prepared by Mr. SEATON, diluted with two pints of water, and without any syrup. It occasioned pains in her stomach at first; but, by adding some tincture of opium to the drink, and giving a grain of opium at night, she was enabled to continue its use with regularity. May the 7th, Two drachms of the acid were taken daily, from this time. 10th, The spots are going off, but the gonorrhœa has greatly increased. Patients with a gonorrhœa have in general employed a vitriolic injection; but this woman did not use any thing for that symptom. 13th, Numerous fresh eruptions have come out on her forehead; and the acid occasions a distressing oppression on the brain, with giddiness, head-ach, and pain in her stomach.

She now desisted from the acid; upon which the complaint in her head went off, but her stomach remained very uneasy for ten days, and the venereal spots were stationary till I put her upon a course of mercurial inunction. Nine drachms of the ointment dispersed the eruptions. She persevered, however, in the treatment with mercury till July 18th, when I

dismissed her apparently well, and have not heard from her since.

This seems to be the proper place for introducing a letter which accompanied the nitric acid sent to me by Mr. SEATON, of Westminster.

“ DEAR SIR,

“ I beg your pardon for not sending the nitric acid sooner ; but I have been so engaged, that, although it has been in readiness for near a month, I forgot from day to day to forward it.

“ I have tried the article now sent, by a solution of silver ; and can answer for its not containing any marine acid. Its specific gravity is 1.40 : it is oxydated, or freed from its superabundant azote, by distillation from manganese ; and therefore has all the qualities requisite for accurate experiments. I think it would be adviseable to give it without any sugar ; and be very careful that it is taken before evidence. May I just suggest a fair trial in mild as well as inveterate cases ?

“ The bearer is the servant of a friend of mine, and he unfortunately has a relation in a deplorable state. If you can take her under your care, in the Lock Hospital, you will very much oblige,

“ Dear Sir,

“ Your faithful humble servant,

“ JAMES SEATON.”

Bridge Street, April 25, 1798.

CASE L. JOHN NOWLAND, aged 24, became my patient at the Lock Hospital, March the 23d, 1798. Three years ago he contracted a gonorrhœa and phymosis, which got well, on taking mercury ; but, a few months after, his tibiæ swelled in their centre, and have continued to get worse till nearly the present time. The node upon his right leg was almost

six inches in length ; the other was not larger than a goose's egg ; and both of them were in excruciating pain every night.

I ordered him one drachm of the nitrous acid, diluted with a quart of water, to be taken daily. It was increased to two drachms on the 27th of March, and agreed perfectly well. No amendment took place in the symptoms until April the 5th, when his pains had become easier. I now applied blisters to each of the nodes, which reduced their size considerably. 13th, The pain still diminishes, and the acid gives him an excellent appetite. 19th, I repeated the blisters : they again reduced the nodous swellings. The pain in them is very trifling. 27th, The nodes have lessened more and more. They are at present quite easy. I continued the acid till the 7th of May ; at which time he informed me of his having been previously treated in a similar manner, at the *Plymouth Hospital*, so that I deemed it unnecessary to persist in this plan. His account was, that he had been admitted there in the beginning of December last ; and that he was discharged, as an invalid unfit for service, “ *after taking a sour medicine for two months (n).* ”

That the nocturnal pains had in this case been totally removed by the acid, was to me sufficiently evident ; but, - how long the patient would continue well, was very uncertain. I judged, partly from my late experience, and partly from the man's account, that his relief would probably be only temporary : and therefore I did not chuse to dismiss him without endeavouring,

(n) Mr. Hammick has publicly contradicted one part of this man's assertion, and says that he was only twenty days using the acid, instead of two months ; but Mr. H. admits that the case was very miserable indeed ! See Part II. p. 189 of the present Essay.

by a course of mercury, to procure him permanent relief.

On the same day the acid was omitted I desired a drachm of mercurial ointment to be rubbed in. His gums began to be affected very speedily. When he had used only fifteen drachms, (one each night,) his mouth and bowels were so extremely bad, that I was obliged to desist from the friction entirely. After waiting till June the 7th, I found him in a fit-state to begin taking the fourth part of a grain of muriated mercury night and morning. His nodes were now still more lessened ; and indeed, one of them had entirely disappeared : his pains also had quite left him. The ptyalism at present amounted to about one pint in a day.

Additional Remarks.—I published thus much of the case formerly. The progress of it was as follows:

On the 14th of June, his diarrhoea could scarcely be restrained with opium, and I was compelled to discontinue the pills : but he now bore mercurial friction, one drachm every other night, and persevered regularly till the middle of July ; when he rubbed in the same quantity every night, and then used two drachms daily for a week longer. The pain in his nodes did not yet subside ; but was alternately more or less violent, and again tolerably easy, till the 7th of August, at which period he seemed almost well, except the enlargement of his right tibia. Between the 11th and the 20th of August, he was absent from the hospital : the pains in both his limbs were now extreme, and he was attacked with a giddiness, which lasted till about the 3d of September, having only yielded to the free use of Peruvian bark and opiates. Sept. 10th, But slight pains remained in his legs ; they had been alleviated by the reiterated application of blisters. I tried the decoction of guaiacum and sarsaparilla at this period, without any

benefit; for, by the end of September, the right tibia was still farther enlarged and more painful. He once more had recourse to the nitrous acid, and took two or three drachms daily for ten weeks, with no material effect on the disease; though his general health was improved under its use.

December 6th, I applied a strong caustic to his worst node, which entirely laid bare the carious portion of bone, and produced a considerable degree of amendment. 20th, The pain was greatly alleviated in his right leg, and quite gone in the left. By the end of January 1799, he suffered no pain whatever. After some weeks the pain returned of an evening, but was moderated by taking a scruple of the compound powder of ipecacuan every night at bed-time. April 11th, No exfoliation has taken place from the tibia, nor does the sore heal. He resumed the nitrous acid again, which had been omitted four months, and presently found his pain better. 26th, The uneasiness was almost gone, and the tibia only a little enlarged. May 4th, He continues the acid, and has no pain; but there is still a puriform discharge from the ulcer, without any evident detachment of bone. 6th, The surface of the tibia being bare, about the size of a shilling, is the only sign of disease remaining. He now was dismissed; and went from London, with the design, he said, of offering himself as a servant to Haslar Hospital, near Portsmouth.

During his continuance under my care, the patient mentioned that he had taken mercurial pills two years on board the Victory man of war, and in the Surprise frigate, before he went to Plymouth Hospital; previous to which discipline, he had also been in Haslar Hospital six months, with the same symptoms, under the care of Mr. Fitzmaurice. On the 6th of October 1799, Mr. Fitzmaurice wrote to me (see

Part

Part II. p. 249) that "John Nowland told him he was quite recovered." Thus terminated this very tedious and melancholy disease, which had afflicted the man so cruelly, and disabled him for years! "Nothing," says Mr. Hammick, of the Plymouth Hospital, "can point out the deplorableness of this man's case better than his being invalided in about ten days after his arrival here." The treatment I at last adopted was rather severe; but I have repeatedly found that no means will relieve certain kinds of nodes, except laying bare the diseased bone, and keeping the sore open for a long time.

SECTION the Fourth.—*Eleven Trials with the Oxygenated Muriate of Potash, in advanced Stages of the Lues Venerea.*

HITHERTO I have afforded but little cause of congratulation. Fifty cases have been detailed; wherein my success has been very small indeed. *The oxygenated muriate of kali*, however, is recommended as far superior to the acids: the reader may therefore expect, that the following eleven cases in which this remedy was fairly exhibited, will prove more satisfactory than the preceding. Let us now appeal to simple matters of fact. "Non singendum, aut ex cogitandum, sed inveniendum, quid natura ferat aut faciat."—BACON.

CASE LI. THOMAS COOPER, 20 years of age, contracted a gonorrhœa in July 1797, which was succeeded by chancres and enlarged inguinal glands. After he got rid of these, large scabby blotches broke out in various parts of his face and body; together with ulcerations on his toes, fauces, and posterior nares. In this advanced stage of the disease he applied to me, at the Lock Hospital, October the 12th. He was in other respects a very bad subject, being hectic and emaciated to the last degree. Having

determined to give the oxygenated muriate of potash a trial in this case, I desired some to be procured from Mr. COXWELL, near Temple Bar. I supposed what was sent to have been of the best quality, as Mr. COXWELL assured Mr. Dixon it "might be depended on." October the 17th, Five grains of the potash were made into a pill, with conserve of roses, and taken twice the first day: it was directed to be increased to *three* pills the day following, *four* the next day, and one more every succeeding day. He continued to augment the daily proportion, until he arrived at fourteen pills, (seventy grains,) when he could not bear them any longer, without the greatest difficulty: they occasioned a violent pain in his stomach, bowels, and head, on the 27th of October; and were so very obnoxious to his feelings on the 6th of November, that he then discontinued taking them.

At this time, he had swallowed as many pills as contained nineteen drachms and two scruples of the potash. By an oversight it happened, that his ulcerated blotches and incrustations had been dressed with a cerate in which red nitrated mercury had been mixed: some of the sores were healed by this dressing; but others had become deeper and more virulent, especially those on his face: the smaller eruptions were not altered in their appearance; the fauces ulcerated farther; an ophthalmia (which afterwards destroyed one eye) attacked him on the 2d of November; a salivation ensued, amounting to a pint and a half or two pints in twenty-four hours; his gums became a little tender; his appetite entirely failed him; and he had at last, a white tongue, frequent and soft pulse, with extreme prostration of strength.

Nothing short of death could now be looked for, as a relief to the sufferings of this wretched object. I put him on a mercurial course, with hardly a ray of hope of his recovery: he fumigated his throat twice a day

a day with cinnabar, and rubbed in the ointment by slow degrees. He shewed signs of amendment in six days : in four more, the scabs fell off his face, his ulcerations were healing rapidly, his appetite had improved, and he slept better. Soon afterwards his throat got cleaner and began to heal. On the 20th of November he sat up part of the day, and found himself astonishingly recovered. But, unhappily, a bad diarrhoea came on, which reduced him to his former state of debility. Opiates did not relieve this symptom. The ointment was exchanged for small doses of muriated mercury. He afterwards lost strength, and could not be kept from getting more feeble by all the tonic remedies I employed : he had sago, rice, tapioca, port wine, and such other articles of diet as were suggested by his deplorable case. In the interim his venereal symptoms continued to get surprisingly better : but his relations desired him to be removed to Windsor, on the 19th of February ; and I have not heard of him since.

Having been so little encouraged by the progress of this case, I never afterward administered the oxygenated muriate of potash in any instance of so malignant a nature. I was induced, at the first, to select a bad case ; because, I believed, if this remedy was superior to the nitrous acid, (which had been so greatly extolled,) the *worst* states of the disease were the most proper for giving it a fair trial.

CASE LII. JAMES CLARK, aged 25, was admitted on the 4th of January. He had a painful node on the right tibia, seven inches in length, and a small node on the right ulna. He had taken no medicine during the preceding two years and a half.

In this and all the following cases, I employed the oxygenated muriate of potash, (procured at Mr. SPEED's, of Cannon Street,) which Dr. ROLLO and Mr.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK informed me had been used constantly at the *Woolwich Hospital*.

January the 6th, 1798, I gave him ten grains of the potash, made into two pills with wheat flour and mucilage of gum arabic. The dose was augmented five grains every day. Eleven pills were taken on the 11th of this month; at which time the patient's tongue was very white, his pulse eighty-four in a minute, and his perspiration considerable. 14th, The medicine had occasioned a salivation of three quarters of a pint each day, and increased the frequency of his pulse to ninety-six: the nocturnal pains were also alleviated. 18th, The salivation was augmented to twice as much as before, his gums were a little swelled and reddened, but his nodes were not at all diminished; he likewise perspired profusely, and had a quick pulse. 22d, The number of pills he took this day was twenty-two. The symptoms were much the same; except, that his tongue was more furred, and his stomach felt very hot after taking the medicine. 25th, Violent nocturnal pains have attacked his other tibia, and he has lately had a deafness and noise in his ears. 29th, The pains have got worse: the node is not smaller: he has every night a very copious flow of saliva. February the 1st, The pills, of which he now takes twenty-nine, occasion great pain and heat in his bowels, as well as a scalding in his urine. 5th, His venereal symptoms are in no respect better than when he came into the hospital. The quantity of potash is now increased to *one hundred and sixty-five grains a day!*

8th, He has very bad pains in his *left* shin, and the two nodes are not in the least reduced. I now ordered him to rub in mercurial ointment and omit the pills. 19th, The large node is much lessened and perfectly free from pain; that upon the ulna is quite well. 22d, His tongue still remains very white, and

and his pulse beats one hundred and eight in a minute. He has not been able to rub in this week past ; the salivation having suddenly increased to *six pints* in twenty-four hours, and his gums being exceedingly swelled. March the 3d, His pulse, tongue, and gums are the same : but the spitting is reduced to three pints a day. After this I saw him no more ; he unexpectedly eloped.

Remark.—Although in this case and the preceding, we do not know the final results, it is evident that mercury was more useful than the new remedy.

CASE LIII. DENNIS CHRISTIAN, in the 24th year of his age, became a patient at the Lock Hospital, on the 18th of January 1798, four months after having been infected with the venereal disease. He never took any thing for his complaints ; which at this time were, a suppurating bubo in each groin, with chancres and syphilitic eruptions. I directed thirty grains of oxygenated muriate of kali (in six pills) the first day, gradually increasing it as in the foregoing case : a caustic was also applied to the inguinal abscesses, and a simple dressing to the chancres. His medicine agreed with him till the 1st of February, when it produced a sense of heat and weight in the stomach and bowels : but it was nevertheless continued with regularity ; only, that I ordered it to be given in a different form. Instead of pills, he was desired to take thirty grains, dissolved in some water, four times a day ; and to increase ten or fifteen grains every future day. 8th, The powdered potash, taken as I last prescribed it, gives no pain in the stomach, and agrees very well. His urine is increased in quantity ; his pulse feeble, and beats one hundred and eighteen in a minute ; his tongue greatly furred, and whitish on its surface. 12th, Fresh eruptions have broken out upon his face ! The medicine was yesterday, and the two preceding days, increased to the

the quantity of *one hundred and sixty grains*: he had taken two doses to-day (forty grains each) before I saw him; but was now desired to omit the medicine, as I believed it to be useless. *In the whole he took FOUR OUNCES, SIX DRACHMS, AND FIFTY-FIVE GRAINS.*

A complete cure was performed by the 3d of May, in the usual manner; thirty calomel pills, and sixty drachms of mercurial ointment, having then been employed.

Note.—The quibbling Mr. X. Y. Z. objects to my giving the muriate of potash in water, not knowing that this was the manner of exhibiting it at the Woolwich Hospital, where the medicine was so efficacious! He also says, that a patient (Thomas Cooper) who took seventy grains a day, was overdosed; whereas the Woolwich surgeons gave one hundred and sixty grains a day; and in the present case, my patient found that quantity to agree well with him. But our critic was, perhaps, obliged to detect some fault in every case.

CASE LIV. GEORGE MILLER, aged 19, was admitted under my care, on the 18th of January 1798, with venereal eruptions of one month's duration. He began with six pills of potash and mucilage the first day, and augmented the quantity by degrees till he took sixteen in the day; after which he had the powdered potash, as in the last case, beginning with half a drachm four times a day. January the 25th, A new set of venereal spots appeared on his body. 29th, More eruptions on his face: he complains of violent heat and oppression in his stomach, which prevent his sleeping. February the 1st, He has a very bad head-ach, and pains in his joints every night. 4th, The powder makes him giddy; and his bowels and head are so much worse, that he has only taken sixty grains to-day: yesterday, he took *one hundred and*

and fifty. Some of the venereal spots look more dull than they did ; but fresh ones still continue to make their appearance, and the nocturnal pains are excessively severe. 5th, I ordered equal parts of the potash and hog's lard to be mixed together ; and two drachms of this composition to be rubbed into his thighs every night and morning. 8th, Fresh spots come out on his face ; his pains are no better ; the ointment EXCORIATED HIS SKIN very much : he says the oily part is absorbed, but the salt always dries upon his skin and falls off.

It appearing to be frivolous to continue the farther use of the oxygenated muriate of potash, I ordered mercurial frictions. The eruptions went away rapidly, and the patient was dismisseſſed cured on the 5th day of April. In this, and likewise in the foregoing case, the patient's gums were more affected by the mercury than has usually happened, where the nitrous acid was previously used ; I mean that the guins were rendered firm by the acid, but not by the potash.

CASE LV. DANIEL TURNER, aged 38, applied to me on the 18th of January 1798, with a deep and extensive ulceration of the glans penis, and large venereal ulcers upon his right leg. He told me he became infected fifteen months before, and had never used mercury for this disease. The sores were, inadvertently, dressed at first with the red nitrated mercurial cerate ; his leg was only poulticed with linseed meal and boiling water. He took the same sort of pills as the other patients ; and persisted in them till he had arrived at nineteen in a day, containing *ninety-five grains* of the oxygenated muriate of potash. They were omitted on the 5th of February ; at which time the chancres were nearly well, and his ulcerated leg much better : but, soon after, a pimple appeared on the right shoulder ; which turned into an ulcer, and finally proved to be a true venereal sore, like those upon

upon his leg. This ulcer, however, healed under the application of a common digestive ointment ; as likewise did all the other sores. Being struck with the singularity of these circumstances, I was induced to give the patient pilulæ ex mica panis. night and morning, till I could see the issue of the case. March 15, I made him an out-patient, as he lived in London, and promised to return if any relapse should occur.

Toward the latter end of March, a sencocele appeared ; a fortnight afterwards the sore broke out again on his shoulder ; a venereal incrustation came upon the head ; an ulcer ensued in the posterior fauces, as large as a shilling ; and no doubt could remain of the Syphilis being in a state of progression. April the 12th, He commenced a course of mercurial friction. The symptoms yielded speedily, and were all cured by the time fifty-one drachms of ointment were used. He was healthy and strong when he left the hospital.

CASE LVI. ESTHER BUCK, aged 33, was made a patient at the Lock Hospital, on the 4th of January 1798. The symptoms under which she then laboured were a painful node upon the inferior part of the right tibia, a small ulcer in the roof of her mouth, and a slight ozzena. She informed me, that her first symptom, two years before, was a discharge from the vagina ; that this was succeeded by the node, about five months afterwards ; that she had no other intervening complaint whatever ; and that her mouth and nose did not become affected till five or six weeks previous to her admission into the hospital : she also said that her husband had been diseased two years, and was at that time (January 1798) under the care of a medical gentleman (o).

(o) In several of the histories contained in this Essay, I have entered more minutely into the detail and order of the symptoms,

Thirty grains of oxygenated muriate of potash were given, in the form of pills. As I was desirous of producing the full effect of this medicine, the patient augmented the daily quantity by degrees, till the 29th, when she took twenty-eight pills, containing *an hundred and forty grains of the potash.* They occasioned a confusedness of intellect, and a giddiness in her head, when she had taken only fourteen a day: the node was then in more pain than ever; the ozæna was worse; and the palate no better. When she had arrived at twenty per diem, the pills caused a vomiting and pain in her stomach, to an alarming degree: her pulse, however, was not more than ninety-two; her tongue was not white; she did not perspire; but, a copious secretion of urine took place. By a little management and caution she was enabled to increase them, to the amount I have before suggested: about this time, a gonorrhœa came on, and increased considerably; the ozæna got better, by often using a saturnine lotion; the ulcer on her palate remained stationary; the tibia lessened a little, but continued very painful; while her pulse and secretions were not materially altered. February the 1st, *Thirty* grains of the powdered muriate of potash were given in solution four times, and ordered to be repeated daily. 5th, The solution of potash in water has agreed: the palate is nearly healed: the nose quite well: her pulse and secretions remain much the same; but her tongue is not yet affected by the remedy. The only new occurrence was an *ardor urinæ* these two last days.

Just before this period, I had been favoured with

than may seem to have been required by my subject: I have done so, not merely to satisfy the reader that my patients were properly selected; but likewise, with the view of illustrating the *natural history of Syphilis*, which has been very imperfectly handled by the generality of writers.

a communication from the Surgeons of WOOLWICH HOSPITAL, concerning the cause and the remedy of this heat in the urine of patients taking oxygenated muriate of potash ; in consequence of which, I decreased the daily quantity of that remedy to only *thirty* grains. On the 8th of February, the heat and secretion of her urine were lessened : but she had taken *ninety* grains during the last two days. I directed it to be continued in the same proportion. 12th, Her nose has got worse these four days. 15th, Again, her nose is better ; but the gonorrhœa remains undiminished : I therefore ordered a vitriolic injection. 17th, This day she has had a violent pain in her head, with giddiness, vomiting, and purging. The medicine was now therefore entirely discontinued. The gonorrhœa has lessened ; her salivary glands are not at all affected ; her tongue is not yet white ; her pulse beats one hundred in a minute. 26th, The vomiting and looseness are better ; but the pain and giddiness are still excessive : her pulse has risen to one hundred and six. *Venereal eruptions are appearing under the hair in the nape of her neck !*

I suspended all medical treatment, in order to see the farther progress of the symptoms ; but, she went out of the hospital on the 1st of March, and returned no more.

The following is the communication above alluded to, from WOOLWICH HOSPITAL ; which was enclosed in

A LETTER FROM DR. ROLLO.

" It would appear that in certain constitutions and states of the stomach, the oxygenated muriate of potash, when given in large doses, instead of producing its usual effects upon the constitution, runs off by urine undecomposed ; in such cases the patient generally complains of sharpness and heat of

urine, with a frequent desire to pass it. This fact was detected by the following simple process: the urine of a patient who had for some days been taking fifty grains four times a day, and who complained much of scalding, &c. was evaporated until it afforded, on cooling, a mass of impure crystals mixed with animal extractive matter: these crystals were separated and placed on filtering paper, and washed with a little alcohol; they were then re-dissolved in hot water, and suffered to crystallize a second time by cooling: by this means the oxygenated muriate of potash was obtained in crystals mixed with some ammoniacal salts, and common muriate of potash, and when thrown upon red hot coals, detonated with its usual vivid flame.

"From this fact it would appear that too large doses of this medicine, are not only unnecessary, but prejudicial; as, by exciting the action of the urinary organs too much, the whole or a considerable part may be carried off undecomposed, somewhat in the same manner as mercury is carried off when it produces purging. To avoid this inconvenience when detected, and which it may readily be by the process just described; the dose of the medicine should be diminished, and a small quantity of some acid, as the nitrous, muriatic, or even vinegar, given after each: by this means the salt must unavoidably be decomposed, and consequently rendered more active, both on the system and disease, as we have found from experience to be the case."

"Royal Artillery Hospital, Woolwich,
Feb. 2, 1798.

"DEAR SIR,

"Agreeable to my promise, I now forward you a perusal of Dr. Swediaur's chapter on Lues; and I embrace the opportunity it gives me to

convey to you the above practical fact, with regard to the exhibition of the oxygenated muriate of potash, which has been ascertained in this hospital by Mr. CRUICKSHANK and Dr. WITTMAN.

“ I am, dear Sir,

“ Very respectfully, yours, &c. &c.

“ J. ROLLO.

“ To Mr. Blair, Great Russel Street.”

CASE LVII. ELIZABETH HANDRY, 33 years of age, was taken into the Lock Hospital January the 18th ; at which time she had a gonorrhœa, with nocturnal pains in her shins, and syphilitic eruptions. I ordered her the pills of oxygenated muriate of potash, as in the last case. No alteration of any kind took place before the 29th of January, when the nocturnal pains were aggravated : she then had increased the number of her pills to twelve in a day. February the 2d, The quantity of her urine was augmented ; she had a white tongue ; her pulse was very feeble, and beat eighty-eight times in a minute ; the pains were as yet not alleviated, nor was there any amendment in the other symptoms. The potash was hereafter used in powder, and dissolved in water, (as the Woolwich Surgeons say *it always should be*,) half a drachm four times a day. 5th, Her pulse was rendered much more frequent (104) ; her tongue was very white ; a diarrhœa had come on these two days past ; she perspired a little, and her urine was increased. The preceding letter from Dr. Rollo induced me to diminish the quantity of potash this day, from an hundred and twenty to only thirty grains : I also ordered a grain of opium to be taken at bed-time for three nights. 12th, Her pulse was very feeble, and beat 124 in a minute ; an extreme degree of erethism and tremor came on, accompanied with severe pain in her head, confused intellect, disordered stomach,

and other inconveniences arising from the medicine : her gonorrhœa also was greatly increased, although she had hitherto used an astringent injection ; but the venereal spots now looked paler. The oxygenated muriate of potash was omitted in consequence of the unpleasant symptoms it had occasioned. 15th, All the complaints last mentioned had gone off, and even the gonorrhœa was lessened, without having used any of the injection these three days. Her gums and salivary glands were unaffected by this treatment.

I could not but think the new medicine was in this case inefficient, and therefore now directed a course of mercurial ointment. All her venereal complaints gave way in a short time ; and on the 26th of April 1798 I discharged her perfectly well.

The discerning Mr. X. Y. Z. thinks " we have every reason to suppose the oxygenated muriate of potash would have been successful, if rightly managed." I am compelled, by experience, to form a different opinion.

CASE LVIII. JOHN BROWN applied to me at the FINSBURY DISPENSARY on the 22d of December 1797, and gave the following account of himself. About four years ago he had symptoms of the venereal disease, which a surgeon removed in a week : a considerable time afterwards one of his testicles became indurated and swelled. This complaint was treated as a syphilitic infection by one of the Surgeons of St. Bartholomew's Hospital. Having rubbed in mercurial ointment three weeks, he was discharged as cured : but soon after he had exposed himself to the air, a violent ptyalism and swelled mouth came on, which confined him at home several days. When his spitting ceased, the roof of his mouth inflamed and became painful ; and, about eight days before I saw him, a very small aperture appeared in the soft palate.

On

On applying to me I could not doubt of this being a venereal case, and judged it a fit one for the trial of nitrous acid. After having given this medicine one week in the usual manner, as freely as the patient could bear it, I found the ulcer had got deeper and spread wider, and therefore determined to administer the oxygenated muriate of potash. He began on the 29th of December, by taking ten grains of the powder three times a day. January the 2d, He repeated it in doses of fifteen grains. 5th, Twenty grains were taken three times a day. He afterwards took *thirty* grains at each dose. 9th, The medicine had not in the smallest degree checked the progress of the ulceration.

He was now in danger of losing the whole of his palate, and I could not in conscience forbear administering mercury: but, as he went soon after to an hospital, I did not see the issue of the case. During the latter part of the time of his taking the oxygenated muriate of potash, a copious discharge of saliva took place.

Dr. Beddoes' anonymous coadjutor tells us, "Nothing could have been expected" from this trial. If I had waited a little longer in expectation, the entire loss of his palate would have afforded but a poor consolation to the man for my perseverance.

CASE LIX. JOHN GIBBONS became a patient at the FINSBURY DISPENSARY, in the autumn of 1797. He had been some time under the care of my colleague *Dr. Wells*; but a venereal eruption having broke out on his face and body, the Doctor transferred him to me. I treated him in the ordinary manner, with mercury, till the spots had nearly disappeared; and then, to try whether the nitrous acid was capable of effecting a complete cure, I gave him two drachms of it (from Apothecaries Hall) to be taken in a pint and a half of water daily. This man

was one of the most fit subjects possible, for a course of experiments. He was perfectly conformable to every direction. He had the fullest confidence in my judgment. He lived in a situation where he was provided for, and where I could visit him from time to time. In short, he was one of the most tractable and patient beings imaginable. I have mentioned this, because the progress of his case is extraordinary, and it may assist in giving weight to what I shall add of his history.

He steadily persevered in taking the acid, without having any appearance of the Lues or any unpleasant effect from the remedy, till the 7th of November, when a salivation came on. 17th, Fresh eruptions were discovered upon his legs. *Having now exhibited the acid forty-two days,* I discontinued it, and watched for the subsequent symptoms. 28th, Violent pains have attacked one of his arms, and a swelling has come on the left ulna. I amused him, and at the same time improved his general health, by ordering the daily use of a decoction of cascara. Next day, he called to shew me a tumor on his right tibia, which was extremely tender. I directed fifteen grains of the compound powder of ipecacuan to be taken at bed-time, four successive nights. December the 6th, His pains were better. The powder was repeated for six nights more.

January the 20th, 1798, I went on till this time, that the case might be in so distinct and unequivocal a form as to be fit for the OXYGENATED MURIATE OF POTASH. In addition to the nodes, eruptions, and nocturnal pains, a lancineous ulcer has made its appearance on the left tonsil. He now began to take twenty grains of the kali in a cup of water four times a day. 25th, The dose is augmented to thirty grains. No good effect is produced: his stomach and intestines are uneasy from the medicine. 30th,

It

It has agreed lately, and he has even increased the quantity to *forty grains*: but, to prevent his bowels from being affected, I ordered an opium pill every night at bed-time. February the 6th, The opium is repeated, and the potash is hereafter to be taken *FIVE times a day, in the dose of forty grains.* 10th, He has continued it in the same dose; but the Lues Venerea seems still in progression, and the tonsil is more ulcerated: his appetite fails him; his urine diminishes in quantity; he has a constant thirst and dry skin; his bowels are griped and very hot; a cold shivering comes over him when he takes the kali; and he has a slight salivation, with a pain in his jaws, but not spongy gums. February 14th, The tonsil is very deeply ulcerated and spreads wider; the spots are increasing in number; the nodes much more painful; his guins are red and tender; but his breath is not fetid: the medicine now produces a universal tremor when he takes it, and has caused a languid intermitting pulse. 16th, He protests he has never yet missed taking his potash, but the third dose to-day occasioned such excruciating pain in one side of his abdomen, accompanied with a trembling motion of the heart, that he could not move his body from the spot where he lay, during the space of seven hours: at the end of that time, he was relieved by a diarrhoea and vomiting. He had a defective secretion by the kidneys till within the two last days, when he voided a considerable quantity of urine: his tongue has been furred and white, as in the former cases. His venereal spots are at length rather paler than they were; but the nodes are as large as before, and painful almost to distraction: the ulcerated tonsil is almost destroyed.

This was an experimentum crucis. HE HAD TAKEN THE ACID FORTY-TWO DAYS, AND LIKEWISE EMPLOYED ABOUT SEVENTY-SIX DRACHMS OF THE OXYGENATED

OXYGENATED MURIATE OF POTASH. It was high time, after this decisive trial, to treat the man by other means. On the 17th of February, I directed him to begin with the mercurial ointment, and to gargle his throat with a weak solution of muriated mercury. His symptoms yielded in ten days. The eruptions, sore throat, his nocturnal pains, and one of the nodes, disappeared soon afterwards. This patient being often exposed to the cold air, and finding the ointment to be absorbed with great difficulty, was advised to persevere in the use of mercury till the end of May. He is at present in good health, (June 1798,) and does not appear to have been much debilitated by so tedious a process.

Additional Remark.—He was free from complaint a year and a half afterwards ; and I presume he now remains well, (October 1807,) as I have not again heard from him. This case, says Dr. Beddoes' acute friend X. Y. Z. “ appears to have been the most impartial administration of the new medicine, of all Mr. Blair's cases.” Then I only beg of him to draw from it a just practical conclusion.

CASE LX. DAVID CAPON, aged 20, became my patient at the Lock on the 11th of August 1796. Six months previous to that time, he had contracted a gonorrhœa, which was attended with a chordee and dysuria. When he applied to me, he had nocturnal pains, ozæna, and ulcers on the arins. He used sixty-three drachms of the common mercurial ointment, and, during his inunction, spat from a pint to a pint and a half every day. I dismissed him as cured in the middle of October ; but he returned to me on the 26th of January 1797, with a venereal hoarseness, pains in his bones, a crustaceous eruption upon the alæ nasi, and several blotches on his forehead. Having seen this relapse after what was thought a proper course of mercury, I varied the treatment,

treatment, by ordering *calomel ointment*. He was relieved in the usual time, but continued the friction, till ninety-seven drachms and a half had been employed. There was, on this occasion, extreme difficulty in having his mouth affected, and in absorbing the ointment: I changed it for the *blue*, (in common use,) but without any advantage in these respects; indeed, I found the calomel ointment to be rubbed in with greater facility than the other.

I discharged him apparently well on the 7th of April. This insidious disease, however, made its appearance on his nose a third time, by the 25th of May. Nothing could be more perplexing and obstinate. I once more ordered the blue ointment, and it was rubbed in with expedition, till eighty-four drachms were used. It then caused a painful enlargement of his knee, (not an uncommon effect of mercury,) which made me discontinue its use. I dismissed him again, in the latter end of July, after having been apparently cured more than one month: but, on the 13th of November following, he returned to me *a fourth time*, with precisely the same scabby eruption, which threatened to ulcerate his nose and upper lip; also a similar scab on the right shoulder, and a small tumor upon the left tibia, accompanied with nocturnal pains in his forehead and occiput. I was extremely chagrined at these repeated relapses, and determined to try the new plan of cure in its fullest extent.

November the 27th, 1797, he began to take the nitrous acid, in the quantity of two measured drachms, and was ordered to continue it every day. December the 4th, He has had repeated attacks of violent pain in both his shins, which induced me to direct a grain of opium every night: he also has a node appearing on the right tibia. 11th, I increased the daily proportion of the acid to *three drachms*. The scab

scab spreads more upon his nose. 14th, Considerably worse. 18th, The acid gave extreme pain in his stomach during the whole day : I therefore added a drachm of the tincture of opium and three ounces of common treacle, to three drachms of the acid, diluted with a quart of water. 20th, The acid medicine will not remain upon his stomach. Add two ounces of Jamaica pepper water to the same mixture I last prescribed. 25th, He continues to take the acid, but with the greatest difficulty. 29th, The medicine still makes him sick, and cannot be persevered in any longer. None of his complaints, except the pains, are any better.

I directed him on the same day to take five grains of the OXYGENATED MURIATE OF POTASH three times, and to augment the quantity every day after. January the 8th, His pulse had increased to 106 in a minute ; his tongue was become white, but no unusual secretion had taken place, nor was his disease yet affected by the potash. 15th, He now takes ninety-five grains in a day : his guns are inflamed and swelled, but not at all spongy, nor is his breath offensive ; his pulse has arisen to 122 ; his nose and shoulder are manifestly better, especially the latter, and his pains are still more alleviated. 22d, He takes a hundred and twenty-five grains to-day ; his nose remains stationary ; the shoulder is well ; the nocturnal pains are quite gone ; his pulse only 108 ; his tongue still white ; he spits very little, but sweats considerably ; his strength fails, and he is become extremely dejected. 29th, I now perceived his nose to get sore within the nostrils, while the scab upon the outside remained : several inequalities were also observable on the tibiae, but they were not painful. *His daily dose of the potash at last was one hundred and fifty-five grains :* it certainly made him very irritable and feeble, as well as injured his appetite.

Upon

Upon the whole I saw no encouragement to persist in this plan of treatment : the man had already lost nine weeks ; during which period, he took as much acid and oxygenated muriate as ought to have cured him, (or at least to have relieved him greatly,) if they had been possessed of antivenereal properties.

January the 30th, He began a course of mercurial friction. After sixty-four drachms had been employed, he was apparently well ; but I made him an out-patient, and ordered five grains of the blue pill night and morning : he continued them till the 19th of April, when I desired them to be omitted. He promised to return, if any venereal symptoms should again occur ; but he never has returned.

Is not this a lamentable example of that singular *idiosyncrasy*, which baffles the most cautious and skilful practitioners ? His first course of mercury would have cured nineteen ordinary cases out of twenty, and the second probably would not have failed once in fifty patients ! The anonymous critic remarks that this case is “ not much in favour of the antivenereal properties of oxygenated muriate of potash, nitrous acid, or mercurial inunction.” But surely, on a fair comparison of their effects, the advantage lies greatly on the side of mercury !

CASE LXI. DANIEL DUNCARTY, aged 40, became infected with the Venereal Disease, about Michaelmas, 1796. He was neglectful of his situation, and said he never took any mercury. September the 28th, 1797, I admitted him at the Lock Hospital, with very numerous eruptions of five weeks duration. He had, at this time, no other complaint ; although he formerly had a gonorrhœa and chancres. October the 2d, He began to take two drachms of the *nitric acid*, from Apothecaries Hall, properly diluted and sweetened. 9th, It agreed with him, and caused the spots to fade away. 12th, The eruptions

eruptions are still going off. 16th, Hitherto the warm bath has been used twice a week, together with the nitric acid. I now ordered him to desist from bathing, and to repeat the medicine. 19th, He tells me that the warm bath, at each time of using, has always dispersed the eruptions: he still amends; but his lips and cheeks are now ulcerated by the local action of the acid. 25th, His lips and gums are much more affected by the acid, though he takes it through a glass tube; and he spits three pints in twenty-four hours. 30th, The spots are as much dispersed as they would have been by a mild course of mercury. November the 2d, The daily proportion of the acid was reduced to only one drachm, on account of the state of his mouth: a small glandular swelling appears above his left elbow, which gives considerable pain; and an hoarseness (peculiar to the venereal disease) has likewise begun to be troublesome. 13th, The nitric acid has been continued till this day; when it was deemed superfluous to use it any longer. *He has taken it regularly forty-two days.*

From the present period, till the 4th of January, he was absent from the hospital and took nothing: he then returned, with his face as thickly beset with pustular syphilitic eruptions as ever I saw a patient, and with a considerable number upon various parts of his body. He told me they began to make their appearance *three weeks* after he had quitted the Lock. His hoarseness also was now very bad. I thought this had been a fair experiment with the acid, and determined to give as full a trial to the OXYGENATED MURIATE OF POTASH.

January the 5th, 1798, Thirty grains of this medicine were given him in six pills, and I ordered them to be increased gradually from day to day. By the time his daily quantity was augmented to nine-

teen pills, (each containing five grains of the potash,) his hoarseness was better, and the eruptions in his face had diminished ; but those upon his body were the same as before. 22d, He now takes one hundred and fifty grains a day, without any unpleasant effect, except a violent itching over his body. His tongue is become white, and his pulse more frequent than natural. 29th, The eruptions are in general paler than they were. February the 1st, His pills agree perfectly ; but as they have been increased to so large a number as thirty-three, I now desired *forty grains of the potash to be given in water five times a day instead of them.* 5th, He has continued to take **TWO HUNDRED GRAINS EACH DAY** without any inconvenience to his stomach. His lips and cheeks, which had been ulcerated by the local action of the acid, and have never got well since, are much more swelled, and very painful. *He still spits three pints every day* ; but has no other increased secretion : his pulse is rather soft and frequent ; his tongue is white ; his sublingual glands are tumefied and tender : fresh eruptions are appearing, and the old ones are more vivid than they were a fortnight before. 8th, *The spots are become more numerous on his face, after having taken SEVEN OUNCES AND FIVE GRAINS OF THE OXYGENATED MURIATE OF POTASH.*

I now totally despaired of curing him by this plan, and was actually ashamed to forbid mercurial inunction any longer. He used a drachm of ointment every night and morning, until the 15th of May ; during the whole of which time his eruptions gradually faded, his gums remained firm, his ptyalism diminished from three pints to one, the swelling and ulcerations of his mouth got well ; and, I even thought he bore the mercury better than usual. But I did not perceive that his venereal symptoms yielded
more

more readily than common. He, at this time, eloped unexpectedly.

Additional Remark. — Here my anonymous, candid, and acute opponent seems completely at a loss what to object! All he says, or could say to the purpose, is this: “The nitrous acid was ineffectually administered for forty-two days; and also seven ounces and five grains of the potash were given without benefit; when the patient was cured by mercury.”

Thus, at last, I have obtained the unwilling testimony of my critic in favour of mercurial treatment: a man whose good opinion I am not anxious to conciliate, and whose name (for his own credit’s sake) ought ever to remain in obscurity; although he is described by Dr. Beddoes as having “sedulously treated thousands of venereal patients,—and if the hundred most experienced practitioners in Europe were picked out, X. Y. Z. would stand, he believes, nearer the top than the bottom of the scale.” For one proof of his experience, let the reader peruse from p. 319 to 324 of this Essay, PART II.

SECTION the Fifth.—*Containing supplementary Cases and Observations, by the Author.*

OF the vast many syphilitic cases which have come under my care, during twenty years public and private practice, none has occasioned greater perplexity, and produced a more complete disappointment of my expectations, than the following:

CASE LXII. JOSEPH LOCKE, 28 years old, applied to me for admission into the hospital February 23d, 1799. He contracted the venereal disease about two years before that time; having had a gonorrhœa and chancres, preceded by a sore throat and eruptions. When he came to me, he had a diseased tibia (right side) and violent nocturnal pains in his head; for which symptoms, and for the sore throat,

throat he had been an out-patient nine weeks under Mr. Lynn's care, at the Westminster Hospital, and during that time he took the nitrous acid mixture. But prior to his becoming Mr. Lynn's patient, he said Mr. Matta attended him six weeks at the house of Mr. Bartolozzi, whose servant he was; and then he "had his leg laid open," for the disease of the bone, and rubbed in mercurial ointment:

I caused him to use fifty drachms of the *Unguentum ex Hydrargyro*, between the 23d of February and the 30th of May, during all which time he spat from a pint to one pint and a half of saliva daily. His head was quite free from pain by the 9th of April; but no evident change took place in his right tibia.

He was made an out-patient on the 31st of May, and discontinued the mercury entirely; but on the 29th of July, the left tibia was shewn to me, enlarged and in great pain; his throat had begun to ulcerate again, and he had signs of an ozæna. For all these symptoms he took the mercurial pill of the College, every morning and night. The ulcer in his fauces, however, became deep and extensive, the pains in his head were very severe, and his tibiæ remained as before; so that I was induced to admit him a second time into the Lock Hospital on the 27th of August, when he began a fresh course of mercurial inunction, and used cinnabar fumigation twice a day.

By the 13th of September, when he had only used nine drachms of ointment, his mouth was so affected and his strength so reduced, that I ordered him the nitrous acid mixture to relieve him, still continuing the mercury. But the smallest dose of the acid could not now be retained on his stomach, and it purged him besides; which obliged me to omit it presently. The mercurial inunction was not discontinued,

continued, till the 12th of February 1800, when he had used *one hundred and five drachms of the ointment.* During this whole period, his salivation was regular, but did not exceed a pint and a half daily, and was sometimes not near so much. I applied a strong caustic to the carious tibia on the 24th of September 1799, and on the 7th of November laid it bare four inches with a scalpel: still, however, no exfoliation ensued. His nocturnal pains were wholly removed by the beginning of October, although more than three months afterwards the ulcer in his nose continued to discharge. I now again tried the nitrous mixture, and added opiates, &c. but it purged him as formerly, and was left off soon.

The caries of the shin-bone seemed too deep and extensive to separate speedily, and the man had been so many months confined, that I dismissed him (relieved of all the other symptoms) on the 13th of February 1800. But he applied to me a third time on the 7th of May, with uneasy sensations in the frontal and nasal bones, a discharge of viscid matter from the nostrils, and pains of the left tibia: the right was healed over, and even felt sound and firm! He only took the volatile tincture of guaiacum between this period and the 5th of June, when I ordered the mercurial pill to be exhibited twice a day. Finding him still worse on the 12th of June, he used the mercurial ointment at home. On the 19th, I readmitted him again into the hospital, a most forlorn subject indeed!

He now suffered as he had before, under nocturnal pains in his shins, with a node on the left tibia, and ozæna. A mercurial lotion was directed to be often snuffed up the nostrils, and he continued the inunction, although under such discouraging circumstances. I regarded mercury still as my sheet-anchor. Past experience had not suggested any better remedy.

remedy. By the 4th of July the node and pains were happily removed. He regularly persisted in the use of the ointment, till the 22d of August, when he thought himself quite free from this *Proteus*, and had rubbed in ninety-two drachms. But I could not allow him to discontinue the medicine; and though he went out of the hospital (at his own request), I ordered him to take twenty grains of the common mercurial pill daily till the middle of September.

While he remained an out-patient, the tonsils and fauces ulcerated afresh! Nov. 13th, He resumed his pills, twenty grains per diem, and, on the 20th, re-commenced the frictions, at home. Having been absent from me, I could not ascertain the exact quantity of ointment he used during the several next months; but the whole must have been immense. In the middle of January 1801, it amounted to about nine ounces: but he continued to use the ointment, more or less assiduously, till the 12th of August; when he told me he had recently fumigated with cinnabar and rubbed in a vast deal, and that he always got worse in his throat if he left it off for a while. The lower part of his fauces was even now badly ulcerated. His general health was much impaired; but he nevertheless kept out of the hospital, and persisted in the frictions, until near the end of this month (August.) I also once more prescribed the acid, mixed with common syrup.

August the 27th, I felt so chagrined and perplexed with want of success, that I advised the patient to consult Dr. Thornton, at the St. Mary-le-bone Dispensary. The Doctor wrote to me "that he very willingly undertook Mr. Locke's case, and would not employ mercury." The result, he promised, should be communicated to me, with the plan pursued.

September 6th, The patient called on me at the hospital; and said he got worse; which induced him

to use mercury by stealth. Dr. Thornton had directed only acid and tonic medicines, except a solution of the muriate of mercury for a gargle. During a long interval after this, I left the case to Dr. T.'s management, because he fully expected to cure *with the nitric acid alone*. I told him frankly I could do nothing without mercury, and had been most unaccountably foiled in all my endeavours to effect a permanent cure. After an unsuccessful trial of four months, he gave the case up as hopeless, and wrote the following letter :

“ Jan. 13, 1802.

“ No. 1, Hinde Street, Manchester Square.

“ DEAR SIR,

“ Mr. Joseph Locke gave the acids a fair trial. They did no good, as the ulceration extended under their administration. The conjunction with mercury partly suspended the disease, but did not produce the desired effect. How far *mercury alone* will succeed, I leave for you to determine, as I am unwilling to pursue the former plans any longer, and refer him back to you. The patient has been all this while observant of the rules I prescribed.

“ Convinced that you have the investigation of truth at heart, and would allow every thing that facts clearly make out, I have the honour to subscribe myself, with great respect, and approbation of your exertions for the service of the profession,

“ Your obliged and faithful Servant,

“ ROBERT JOHN THORNTON.

“ For Mr. Blair,

“ Great Russell Street, Bloomsbury.”

Here my register fails. I know not what steps the poor sufferer next pursued : but having this day (October 2d, 1807) accidentally found a memorandum of his former address, in Westminster, I sent to his lodgings to inquire after him. He had re-

moved, and the housekeeper could not tell where he now was ; but “only knew that he was fat and well a year ago, living comfortably with his wife.” So that the patient at last got cured, and probably with the use of mercury in such prodigious quantities as very few men of the strongest constitutions could survive!

CASE LXIII. Mr. C of Tottenham Court Road, consulted me on the 23d of August 1798, for a node on each tibia, which had continued nine years after he manifested any symptom of the Lues Venerea. Indeed he had been several years married, and very active in business. The nodes were not painful, except during cold weather ; though they kept him in a constant state of apprehension. He said, the quantity of mercury which he took at first was immense, and that he was still occasionally taking calomel. Besides these nodosities, he had (when he consulted me) large œdematosus swellings, and a dull redness along the skin over the whole course of the tibiæ ; with now and then ulcerations breaking out spontaneously, which had been troubling him four years.

Finding no reason to exhibit mercury, I prohibited its use in the most decided terms, and recommended the nitrous acid, with simple syrup, to be taken freely. In two months he had neither sores nor swellings of the integuments, and by further perseverance he got entirely well. I saw him a few days ago in perfect health ; which affords a satisfactory demonstration of the permanency of his cure, it being more than nine years since he first applied to me.

The result of Mr. C.’s case reminds me of the observation I made at the commencement of this controversy (Preface to Second Edition of PART I.), viz. “As a general substitute for mercury in the treatment of Syphilis, the acid is certainly inadmissible. Its efficacy may be most depended on in cases

where a venereal taint is least capable of proof." I have since administered the acid to such a number of patients, under circumstances and symptoms so very dissimilar, that I feel no hesitation at all in condemning its use as an ANTI-VENEREAL medicine, and commanding it as ANTI-MERCURIAL. One of the best purposes to which I have applied it, after more than ten years experience of its effects, has been *to prevent or remove the ill consequences of mercurial remedies.* But, besides this beneficial result of the present controversy, I still maintain that the nitric acid is useful in all the other cases described in my concluding remarks, PART II.

CHAPTER V.

An Abstract of secondary Venereal Cases treated in the East Indies.

TOWARDS the latter end of the year 1800, Dr. Beddoes published a third collection of cases and observations entitled, "Communications respecting the external and internal Use of Nitrous Acid; demonstrating its Efficacy in every Form of Venereal Disease," &c.—wherein he tells his fellow-labourers, "*We have arrived, if inquirers ever did arrive, at incontestable certainty.*" Let us then advert to the principal facts on which this Physician grounds his opinion. I shall endeavour to give a fair, though concise, statement of what appears in his collection most deserving our notice; and in doing so, I purposely confine myself to the cases of secondary venereal complaints, treated in the East Indies, as the use of the acid in primary affections is not now disputed. I do not know of any other publication besides this which has appeared in favour of the new treatment, since I finished the SECOND PART of my

Essay;

Essay ; so that the reader will now possess a summary of the whole evidence adduced in its support.

CASE I. The first case I find of secondary symptoms, is recorded at page 5th. Dr. Helenus Scott (more commonly called Mr.) writes November 22, 1793, that he had then nearly healed an extensive ulceration of the throat and velum palati, by administering the acid for a month to an East Indian. He had never taken mercury, and remained well September 1st, 1799.

CASE II. p. 6. A man had nearly lost the use of his hands, arms, and legs, by nocturnal pains ; and had a copper-coloured eruption on many parts of his skin. Dr. Scott relieved him in a fortnight, by exhibiting the acid ; and greatly recovered him in one month. After some weeks further use of the acid, he cured the patient, who remained free from syphilitic affection Sept. 1, 1799.

CASE III. p. 7. A man in Bombay with old chancre, pains in his bones, stiff joints, copper-coloured spots, and thickened cuticle, was cured in six weeks by taking the acid under Dr. Scott's direction. He continued it for two months in all, and has been well ever since. He never took a grain of mercury, which is a remedy the natives of India abhor.

CASE IV. p. 8. A patient with nocturnal pains, swelled ankle, phymosis and discharge, afterwards followed by red-coloured spots, was apparently cured by the acid, and the local application of blue vitriol to the prepuce. He was still taking the acid Nov. 12, 1794.

CASE V. p. 9—11. After a chancre had healed by the use of mercury, the patient suffered grievously from nocturnal pains ; another course of mercury afforded relief, but a relapse occurred in fifteen days after it was discontinued. He was confined with the pain six months in bed, so that he could not

rise without help. Mercury afforded again some relief, but not permanently. When Dr. Scott saw him, exostoses had appeared on the man's legs. October 1st, 1794, He began the acid. November 7th, The pains were nearly removed. On the 25th, All his pains gone, except a little in one shin; and he drank above an ounce of the acid daily. Some months after his recovery he left Bombay, and returned to his own country, thinking himself secure against a relapse.

CASE VI. p. 14. Dr. Keir, on the Bombay Establishment, admitted a patient into the General Hospital in August 1797, covered with venereal blotches, nodes, and nocturnal pains; and who had been partially relieved by repeated courses of mercury. January 22, 1798, he began to take two drachms daily of the acid, in a quart of water; the quantity was soon increased to half an ounce, and gradually to six drachms per day. March 23d, He seemed well. Nodes much reduced in size; sores nearly healed; the eruption disappeared. 26th, Reported himself in every respect well, and refused more medicine. 30th, Discharged, to join his corps in the Malabar provinces.

CASE VII. p. 15. A man having a node on the tibia, nocturnal pains and swelling of the elbow and knee joints, with a foul scabby ulcer on his nose, began the acid 13th of February 1798. The enlargement of the tibia and knee joint was entirely gone March 5, when he was taking six drachms daily. March 25, Sore on his nose healed: from this time he took seven drachms, and received his discharge as cured March 30th.

CASE VIII. p. 16. The next case related by Dr. Keir, is that of a marine who was unable to move, from having pains in his limbs and swelled joints, of several months duration. February 1st, He began

began with the acid, three drachms daily ; increased it to half an ounce on the 15th, and to six drachms on the 28th, when he was much relieved. March 15th, Was discharged in good health, having had a sore mouth and very considerable discharge of saliva.

CASE IX. p. 18. A man who had a puriform secretion from the urethra, and several deep-seated chancres on the glans, employed a strong nitric bath twice a day, from the 18th of October 1798 to November 15th, when his mouth was very sore, his gums ulcerated, the salivary glands enlarged, discharging about four pints of saliva daily ; but with no fetor of his gums, as if he had taken mercury. Sores healed on the 20th, and dismissed to duty the 28th. I should not have noticed this case as important, if Dr. Keir had not said, " June 1799. This case proves satisfactorily, that the acid is capable of being absorbed, of producing salivation, and of effecting a permanent cure in a case *certainly syphilitic.*"

CASE X. p. 19. A Sepoy much reduced by repeated courses of mercury, for nodes and swelled joints, used the nitric bath for an hour twice a day, from November 16, 1798. He not only had the bath made stronger, but December 10th took two drachms of the acid internally, which was augmented to half an ounce January 4th, and an ounce on the 10th, still continuing the bath. January 14th, Free from pain, and reported well. 24th, Discharged. He now had the free use of his joints, and the nodes were nearly reduced. August 1799, No relapse.

CASE XI. p. 22. A case worthy of especial attention ; in which Dr. Keir first says, the patient " labours under Syphilis," and then suggests an opinion that the syphilitic virus had been eradicated. No relief was derived from mercury, nor from the acid.

The

The symptoms were, nodes and enlarged joints. In two or three such cases “a cure has been effected by a voyage to Europe, without mercury.” This Physician seems not to be determined what are the genuine symptoms of existing Syphilis; as will further appear from the next case, which he calls “*a strong and distinctly marked case of Pox.*” Viz.

CASE XII. p. 23. A Sepoy reported that he had a number of pimples on the prepuce, which now (Nov. 23, 1798) were become large foul chancres. He first used the strong nitric bath for some days, and afterwards took from half an ounce to an ounce of the acid daily, till the 29th December, when he reported himself well. November 1799, Remained perfectly well.

CASE XIII. p. 24. Nodes and nocturnal pains, for which mercury was given without effect; cured by the acid bath alone, between October 28th and December 25th. But in the month of July following, he still had an enlargement of one tibia, which gave no uneasiness.

CASE XIV. p. 26. Nodes, nocturnal pains, and swelled knee-joints, not relieved by mercury, but obtained great alleviation by the acid bath.

Dr. K. adds the following remark to his detail: “The foregoing cases ascertain, beyond a doubt, the merits of nitric acid as an antidote against the venereal poison in its primary, and very generally in its secondary stages.” Besides these, he says, he has succeeded in the cure of two out of five secondary cases, and in five primary venereal affections.

CASE XV. p. 30. Mr. Steuart of Bombay relates that he cured a man of extostoses of the metacarpal bones and cranium, attended with nocturnal pains, by taking the acid from October 13, 1798, to December 3d. He remained well a year after.

CASE XVI. p. 31. Nearly the same symptoms in another

another patient were not alleviated by the acid taken internally for twenty-two days, but were cured by the acid bath during the same space of time; and remained well December 8, 1799, which was eleven months afterwards.

CASE XVII. p. 32. Mr. Steuart recites a case resembling the last, cured by the bath, from December 18th to January 3d.

CASE XVIII. p. 32. A node on the shin-bone and severe nocturnal pains almost removed by five days bathing in the diluted acid, and quite cured in a month. The patient had been well eleven months when Mr. S. wrote.

CASE XIX. p. 33. A man with an open ulcer on the shin, exostosis, and violent pains, admitted into the hospital November 3, 1798; took four grains of calomel daily, for five days, then was ordered half an ounce of diluted acid in the day, which he continued till December 12th; and that day the patient was discharged well. The sore was dressed with cerate mixed with red precipitate! Mr. Steuart "has no doubt but the cure was effected by the acid, not by mercury." *Why so?*

CASE XX. p. 38. Nocturnal pains in the bones, with gonorrhœa and scalding, cured by the acid internally, from August 2d to the 24th.

I observe this Surgeon's cures were wrought with uncommon expedition. Compare the above cases.

CASE XXI. p. 44. Mr. Boag of Bombay recites an old case of nodes, which could not be cured by mercury, but was relieved greatly by the acid bath. He also says he has cured some and benefited other patients having a confirmed Lues, by the acid given internally.

CASE XXII. p. 49. Mr. Brydon treated a patient with blotches and incrustations. The acid was given at first in the quantity of an ounce and a half in two pints

pints of water daily, and afterwards was reduced to one ounce. In seven days the acid was omitted, from having produced sore mouth, &c. when the blotches had mostly disappeared, and the few that remained were removed by unguentum citrinum.

N. B. Mr. Brydon adds in a postscript, that "the blotches have again appeared worse than formerly."

CASE XXIII. p. 76. Mr. M'Grigor of Bombay administered the acid from the 7th of July to the 13th of October 1799, to a man who had been unsuccessfully treated with mercury and mezereon. He had four ulcers on his neck and throat, severe nocturnal pains of the hard bones, and considerable swelling of the knee-joint. The nitric acid cured him, beginning with small doses, and increasing it to seven drachms per day.

CASE XXIV. p. 78. From July 19 to September 4, Mr. M'Grigor cured another man of pains in his frontal bone, ulnæ, and tibiæ; the left groin was ulcerated and callous. The man took from six to eight drachms of acid daily, and used the nitric bath.

CASE XXV. p. 84. A very striking narrative; the man still under this Surgeon's care, but conceived to be cured Dec. 21, 1799. The detail is as follows: "CHARLES WOOD was received into the hospital on the 12th of September. He then had an extensive ulcer on the soft parts of the nose, including the cartilage, and the nasal bones were extremely painful. He had no primary symptom, and denies having had any venereal complaint for the last twelve months. On looking into the fauces, marks of extensive old sores were discovered, the velum pendulum quite gone. He was ordered the nitric bath and mixture as soon as admitted. On the 22d, the discharge from his nose was very considerable, and the ulcer seemed to spread.

"October 5th, The quantity of the acid has been
very

very considerably increased, with no change in the ulcer ; though not foetid, the discharge still considerable ; the mouth not affected. October 12th, His nose is in the same state ; he complains much of his right wrist, though nothing can be seen or felt there. 14th, The acid was stopt, and not given again till the 23d ; during this time the ulcer gained considerably, the pain of his wrist increased, and a swelling of the lower end of the ulna, to the extent of six inches, could be distinctly felt. 26th, No alteration, *the dose of the acid was increased to two ounces in the day.* November 2d, No pain and little discharge from his nose, pain of wrist very severe, the swelling of the ulna increased, and he complained of the right tibia, though nothing could be felt there.

" November 9th, The progress of the ulcer in his nose has been completely stopt ; it now heals, though still very painful, and the node on the ulna does not increase, and the pain of the tibia is now gone : his gums are not yet affected. *Capiat acidi in Mistura, 3ij. 3ij. quotidie.* November the 16th, Nose entirely cured, the progress of the node on the ulna stopt ; he feels less pain. 18th, As he complained much of his bowels, and passed some blood with his stools, the acid was again stopt. 23d, The nodous swelling considerably lessened, but he still complains of much pain at night ; the acid again given, but in smaller quantities. November the 30th, The exostosis is now reduced to half the size which at one time it was, but he still complains of pains in his limbs."

P. 90. Of three gentlemen treated with the mercurial pill and ointment, Mr. M'Grigor says, one relapsed into the worst stage of Syphilis. But three others he treated successfully with the acid and mercury conjoined. He tells Dr. Beddoes that the two cases

cases which he had communicated in 1798 remained cures. Those now sent were examined by the Medical Board at Bombay during their progress. The medium quantity of acid he gave internally was one ounce, and in two cases even to sixteen drachms by measure, in the day! The acid was nearly colourless, and its specific gravity 1,144. He seldom mixed it with any thing but water, and he himself took it, so diluted, to the extent of fourteen drachms a day!

He found it affect the gums like mercury, in a majority of cases. If any of the cures should not remain permanent, (and he had only failed to December 1st, 1799, in five cases out of forty,) they will hereafter be communicated to Dr. Beddoes. This Surgeon vouches for the permanency of the first of Dr. Scott's cures, which he calls "*some of the most inveterate venereal cases that occur,*" p. 3.

Mr. Mac Grigor, Dr. Keir, and Mr. Deane, are of opinion that the Lues runs its course more rapidly in the East Indies, and is more difficult to cure with mercury, than in Europe.

December 17, 1799, Dr. Helenus Scott writes to Dr. Beddoes in the following terms: "I can have no doubt but that the nitric bath will become a very useful agent for the cure of Syphilis. I believe that many of the failures of the acid in curing Lues have arisen from too small a quantity of it being in the habit. Although it is certain that it cures Syphilis without affecting the mouth, yet in general I do not find that the symptoms in bad cases begin to yield till the mouth be considerably sensible of it. It is desirable, even in recent cases, that the affection of the mouth should be apparent, as an index of the quantity of acid that has been absorbed. We have found that the bath alone removes very happily, not only the primary but the secondary symptoms of Lues. In obstinate cases the body may be bathed in

the acid several times a day ; on other occasions it will be sufficient to keep the legs in it for half an hour at a time, and to repeat this four, five, or six times a day, according to circumstances. I have seen chancres, buboes, &c. very readily go away by bathing the lower extremities in this manner, without any application to the parts affected. When the most powerful effect is required, the body may be frequently immersed in the acid bath, of as great a strength as the skin can bear it, while it is taken internally in as large a quantity as the stomach will permit. By varying the means of absorption, by giving over the use of the acid for a short time, and by persevering for months together, I have certainly seen cures produced where mercury had entirely failed, and where I think it never would have succeeded. The acid bath, as I suppose cold water would do in the same circumstances, is apt to produce a kind of rheumatism which resembles venereal pains. I have observed that these go off in a short time by giving up the use of the bath.

" The result of our experience of late seems to be, that by the bath, or by combining the internal use of the acid with its external application, we succeed in hopeless cases *where mercury had failed* ; in other instances, however, of a similar nature, I have failed by the acid. When the bones are highly diseased, a long time is required to restore them to health, even after the poison of Syphilis is neutralized. I think I have observed in some instances, that the immediate relief from pain is not so decided from the acid as from mercury, even where its permanently good effects have been far more considerable.

" In recent cases of Syphilis we have been much more successful ; I am hardly able in truth to record but very few instances of failure. Some cases have been more troublesome and more tedious than others, but they have given way in the end.

" With

"With respect to the permanency of the cures by the acid, we have reason to think that at least they are not less so than those from mercury; but I make it a practice, even in the recent disease, to affect the mouth by it, or to produce some very evident affection of the system.

"*I have been blamed for giving too warm a testimony of my success. I have, however, nothing to detract from the first letter that I published on the subject. I have always allowed, that where mercury had failed, I have too often failed with the acid. I hope that by the assistance of the bath we shall be still more fortunate in future, for it has put us in possession of a power that may be much increased or diminished, according to the quantity of resistance.*"

He relates a case of *Elephantiasis* p. 70, in which this shocking disease was nearly cured by the acid bath.

The judicious reader, on comparing the whole of the evidence laid before him, will not be at a loss to determine whether "IN A FEW YEARS MERCURY, AS A REMEDY FOR LUES VENEREA, WILL BE BANISHED BY THIS ACID, AND THE POISON OF SYPHILIS BE EXTINGUISHED OVER THE FACE OF THE EARTH." —See Dr. Scott's Letter, p. 31 of this Essay; and M. Alyon's Memoir, in which he says, "*Je m'efforce de bannir le Mercure du traitement des Maladies syphilitiques.*"

END OF THE FIRST PART.

ERRATA.

Page 93, Note, for CASE xii. read CASE xiii. p. 101.

— 94, First line of the note, for at read as.

— 99, Line 20th, for sixth Case, read seventh.

— 176, Fourth line from the bottom, for preceded, read succeeded.

ESSAYS

ON THE

VENEREAL DISEASE

AND ITS

CONCOMITANT AFFECTIONS.

PART THE SECOND:

CONTAINING

Additional Evidence, with critical and practical Remarks, on the new saline antisyphilitic Remedies; and an Answer to some Objections made against the former Part.

BY WILLIAM BLAIR, A.M. F.M.S.
SURGEON OF THE LOCK HOSPITAL AND ASYLUM,
AND OF THE FINSBURY DISPENSARY, &c.

"It will require time, acumen, extensive practice, unprejudiced judgment, to bring this medicine fairly to the test; to remark in what stages of the disorder it will do good; where its success may be doubtful; where it is certain."

Dr. Geach.

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